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PROTOCOL CULTURE

A D I C T S

24

JULY - AUGUST

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• SAILOR
MOON

• KIMAGURE
ORANGE
ROAD

• 8TH MAN

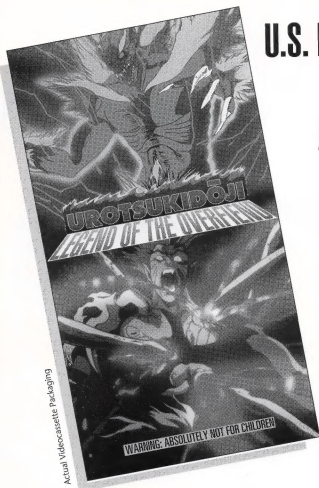
• MOBILE SUI
V-GUNDAM

THE ANIME & MANGA MAGAZINE

WITNESS EXPLOSIVE COMBAT ON EARTH AND IN SPACE!

U.S. MANGA CORPS™
&
ANIME 18™

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According to legend, the world consists of three dimensions — the Human World, the World of Man-Beasts and the World of Monster Demons. Every 3,000 years, the Overfiend is brought to life to destroy the existing world and unite these three dimensions into a new world of peace and happiness. Amano from the Man-Beast World has been on the trail of the Overfiend for over 300 years and realizes that the new world may be sickening way beyond human comprehension.

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GUMMI BEARS CAN'T SWIM

But we can. As I write this editorial, we are finishing issues 22 and 23 of PROTOCOLTURE ADDICTS, and issues 8 and 9 of MECHA PRESS. These words are actually being printed while I'm at Anime America and Anime Expo. My point?

We swam for a miracle and made it to shore. Before this summer, there was a backlog of issues, delays, limbo, and a will to work. We made a quite simple plan: catch up on our backlog AND CLEAR IT; bring both magazines to a new format; keep the role playing game section rolling products out; be at the conventions (ANIME TOUR '93, 'Watch out!').

I'm proud to say "We did it!"; six issues of PA, five issues of MP, five role playing game products, and two books (not counting the reprint). In six months. Why all these efforts, instead of just rolling the date of PA and MP forward and going about as if nothing happened? Because of you.

You means the subscribers and readers who badgered us on; you who kept us going through the frustrations; you who read us faithfully. You means also our distributors, advertisers, and those in the industry who believed then — and now — in PA and MP. You means us, the staff: we gave without taking to prove we can do it. All this for you. You meaning everybody in the world of japanimation.

PROTOCOLTURE ADDICTS exists for you. We do PA for you. This might sound ridiculous, but it's our motto. And behind that motto stands (allow me) "We, the people" of Japanese animation and manga. 1993 is up to now a great year for our passion: PA and MP on-schedule, the arrival of Animerica and Anime UK, more subtitled and dubbed releases of animations, more manga and manga-like books, more theatrical releases, and more conventions. 1993 has meant more and also better.

We are growing, maturing, but we have not finished walking the long and winding road. Many barriers are left to break, many obstacles to overcome: acceptance on a larger scale, unification of the industry, and the proliferation of the cultural "gospel" we call Japanese animation. On top of everything, PA and MP have a few more surprises for '93 (and even more for '94). PA does its part for Japanese Animation and manga. With you and for you. That's all there is to it.

By the way, gummi bears dissolve in 24 hours. We don't.

Patrick Lapointe

PRODUCING THE ABOVE REQUIRED:

Over 100 Pop Tarts, some 50 liters of soda, 25 liters of milk (and an innumerable quantity of water), a hundred or so instant ramen, seven boxes of microwavable popcorn, more than three boxes of printer paper, 15 viewings of "LUPO THE BUTCHER", 40 more megas of RAM, five new Macs (yeah!), very little sleep, 100 plus "Mr. Freeze" popcicles, two new floptical drives, 25 pounds of finely ground coffee (Decaf NOT!),

music (from multiple animations, films and artists ranging from Mylene Farmer, Kitaro, Spin Doctors and Rush to Cirque du Soleil, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Bach and Les Rita Mitsouko), too many lost weekends, dozens and dozens of fast food deliveries, take-outs, pizza and various quickies, close to a hundred hot dogs and burgers from late-night greasy spoons, humor, a lot of dedication, and twenty odd pounds of gummi bears. #

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- ANIMATION VIDEO COLLECTOR GUIDE (Genko-Sha): 45.
- B-CLUB 88: 98.
- HOBBY JAPAN 7-93: 15, 24, 26, 28, 30.
- NEWTTYPE 2-93: 16-17; 3-93: 14, 91; 4-94: 6, audio cassette label art; 5-93: 3; 6-93: 15, 20, 175.
- PORCO ROSSO ROMAN ALBUM: cover.
- SAILOR MOON MOOK: 9-15, 38, 40, 46, 48, 52, 54-55, 61, Dust Cover Front Flap.

All other illustrations came from promotional artwork, cover art, or directly from the animation.

SO! WHAT'S NEW?

M A N G A

Dark Horse plans to release the APPLESEED DATA BOOK sometime in late 1993.

Shueisha will release six of its *shojo* titles (manga for girls, as opposed to *shonen*, manga for boys) from its MARGARET series in a 30-minute OVA format. They will be produced by Madhouse and released monthly at a retail price of ¥3,900.

Antarctic Press has announced the cancellation of SETTEI after issue #2. It seems that the orders were too low and the production cost too high. They will start instead a new fan magazine, SECTOR ANIME, that will be inspired by FANROAD and will have the support of COMIC MARKET. It is expected to have a better success.

There is a second STREET FIGHTER manga. This is not a collection of short stories like the first one but a complete story. It is published by Tokuma and the art is by Kanzaki Masaomi (who also did XENON).

VIZ most recently announced titles are: BIO-BOOSTER ARMOR GUYVER (starting in October), GUNDAM 0083 Film Comic, and Go Nagai's VENGERS ROBO. They will also release in video RANMA 1/2 (in 9 volumes) and MERMAID'S SCAR.

V I D E O

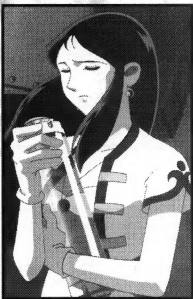
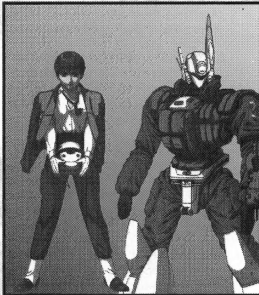
L.A. HERO released three new videos this time under the label Dark Images Entertainment. This spring they released RAVEN TENGU KABUTO, a 45-minute OVA based on a Buichi Terasawa manga and the two-volume DEVILMAN OVA (51 & 60 minutes). In June, they released OUT OF CONTROL, the 1986's GUYVER OVA (55 minutes). Each retails for \$34.95. Dark Image Entertainment (D.I.E.) will be a label for more adult material.

Dark Image Entertainment released Manabe's OUTLANDERS video in July. It retails at \$24.95 and is distributed by Nippan (formerly Books Nippan).

The next year will definitely be the year of the sequels. After the news of another DOMINION OVA series, we now learn about ARSLAN 3 & 4 OVAs. Also, BORGMAN II will begin this October as an OVA series of 30 minutes each.

The rumor of a sequel for ORGUSS seem confirmed. ORGUSS II will be a six-volume OVA series by Bandai.

A second PATLABOR movie is due to be released later this year. It will take place two years after the first film.



Another sequel: MACROSS III. The first sequel, that seemed intended for a younger audience, was not a great success in Japan and was finished only because of the American market. The Japanese will probably try to live down this failure with something more mature and closer to MACROSS THE MOVIE. It is no coincidence if the new OVA series is produced by the same staff as the movie.

We already knew that GIANT ROBO was a remake of an old live-action TV series. But it seems that the opening theme from the anime is also the same. By the way, the soundtrack of this series is totally magnificent.

P O R C O R O S S O

PORCO ROSSO, one of the latest production of Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli, has been quite a success. It is the 1992's top-grossing movie since it made \$25 million at the box office, more than any other local or foreign productions. Not bad for an animation!



ANIME NEWS

ANIME EGO

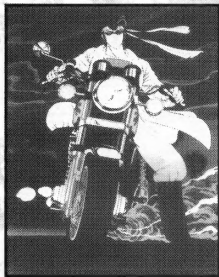
AnimEgo, the leading releaser of subtitled Japanese Animation in USA, is happy to provide additional information about their fall releases.

"In addition to our ongoing release of the outrageous "Urusei Yatsura" series, and our re-release of many of our titles on LD, AnimEgo will be releasing at least one additional title each month, in a wide variety of genres," said Janice Hindle, Managing Director. "It's our way of introducing American audiences to the wide majority of Japanese animation that is available; it's not all giant robots, after all!"

Each of these tapes will be released on the last Wednesday of the month. In September and November, they release two classic films: "The Dagger of Kamui" and "Arcadia of My Youth," never before available in the US in their original, uncensored forms. The last two AD POLICE FILES come out in October and in December. And in January, the New Year starts with a very unusual film about High School Biker Gang.

THE DAGGER OF KAMUI. On the eve of the Meiji Restoration, as Japan begins to open its doors to the west, a young man begins to search for the ninja who killed both his real and adoptive families. Jiro's adventure will take him from Northern Japan, a land of ancient mystery and magic, all the way to the American Old West, in search of a colossal treasure. His quest will have grave consequences, both for himself, and for all of Japan! "The Dagger of Kamui" deftly combines actual historical figures and events with dramatic storytelling and fluid animation; the result is a story that truly deserve to be called an Epic. Color, stereo, 132 mins., \$39.95. Release on September 30th, 1993.

ARCADIA OF MY YOUTH. Often referred to as "The Captain Harlock Movie", "Arcadia of My Youth" is the master-work of creative genius Matsumoto Leiji. The film tells the story of how Captain Harlock, together with those who would be his lifelong friends in a battle against tyranny, becomes the legendary space pirate he is best known as (in the popular Japanese comic book and TV series). Set against the conquest of Earth by the alien empire of Illumidus in the 30th Century (patterned on the Post-war Occupation of Japan), the film's message is that one must stand up for one's beliefs, no matter the cost, even if everyone else believe that suffering in the slavery is better than fighting to be free. Color, mono, 1982, 130 mins., \$39.95. Release on November 25th, 1993.



SHONAN BAKUSOZOKU. Eguchi Yoosuke is an enigma. On the one hand, he's the leader of the "Shonan Bakusozoku" biker gang, a young man whose fists are feared, and who has proven more than once that he's "the leader of the pack." On the other hand, he's also the head of his High-School's Handicraft's club! All in all, he's one well-behaved hooligan, at least, when he wants to be. And he's the least weird member of his gang! Why is this nice guy wearing leather and getting into rumbles? If you figure it out, tell us, WE want to know too! Color, stereo, 1986, 52 mins., \$34.95. Release on January 27th, 1994.

CPM + NIPPON ANIMATION

- America's largest Japanese animation specialist, Central Park Media Corp., announced that it has acquired the North American distribution right to a catalog of 33 animated films produced by top-ranked Japanese animation studio, Nippon Animation, headquartered in the Ginza, Tokyo.

- The collection, entitled The Anthology of Japanese Literature, boast the animated adaptations of Japan's leading modern literature, as adapted from the work of such Nobel Prize winning authors as Yasunari Kawabata, and the legendary Yukio Mishima. Classics such as BOTCHAN, by Natsume Soseki, are read by every Japanese school child as avidly as Mark Twain or J.D. Salinger would be read by today's youth. "It's Japan's version of Classic Illustrated, on video," commented John O'Donnell.

- Central Park Media believe that a marketing strategy starting with a national roll-out campaign aimed at the nation's high schools and colleges, followed up by a national library sales campaign, has the best chances of success in the near-term. "Our initial objective is to establish the credibility of the catalogue, similar to the quality in books as represented by such a label as Modern Classics," commented O'Donnell. "Consumer sales will be developed over time." Pricing and specific marketing plans will be outlined later in the year, when CPM announces its 1994 release schedule. (CPM)

BOOKS NIPPAN

- The Book Nippan Japanese Animation Fan Club's newsletter will be discontinued, but the club will begin monthly meeting. The Book Nippan 1993 catalog is in the works and should have been completed by now. Their downtown Los Angeles store has moved to 605 W. 7th St. and the New York store has been permanently closed. They will no longer maintain a store on the East Coast. The new name of the company will simply be NIPPAN. (From The Rose #36).



UROTSUKIDOJI

The initial shipment of new release orders for UROTSUKIDOJI: LEGEND OF THE OVERFIEND has greatly exceeded the sales expectation of its label Anime 18™. The controversy caused by the ultra-violent and inhumanly sexual nature of the animation coupled with the national theatrical roll-out created an increased awareness for this title. OVERFIEND legendary cult status also contributed as it is a "must see" for fans and non-fans alike. Anime 18 is anticipating a similar response to the sequel, UROTSUKIDOJI: LEGEND OF THE DEMON WOMB, which is scheduled for release on November 3, 1993 as well as to the 5-tape OVA set, UROTSUKIDOJI PERFECT COLLECTION, which is scheduled for release on December 1, 1993.

VIZ VIDEO

Viz announced at Anime Expo the creation of a new video line. This is the logical step after their success in publishing manga and probably the best move in cross-marketing. Releasing the same titles in animation than in comics is a very clever way to increase the support already provided by their magazine, ANIMERICA. The first title announced is RANMA 1/2. There could not be a better choice since it is probably the most awaited anime title among North American fans. The first dubbed 50-minute video cassette will contain the first two episodes and will feature a digitally recorded dubbed hifi stereo soundtrack. Viz also plans to release a subtitled version as well as a laser disc version in the near future. The video is priced at \$29.95 US.

The second title is MERMAID'S SCAR, the sequel of the RUMIC WORLD's MERMAID FOREST by Rumiko Takahashi. The single volume 50-minute dubbed OAV will feature a digitally mastered stereo soundtrack and is priced at \$34.95 US. Both titles will be shipped on November 2nd.

ANIME NEWS

GUNNM AT A.D. VISION

A.D. Vision, "The Best Little Anime House In Texas", has released the animated motion pictures GUNNM: RUSTY ANGEL AND GUNNM: TEARS SIGN. Both GUNNM films are based upon the extremely popular Japanese manga series, GUNNM, by Yukito Kishiro, which may be better known to most North American audiences under the name of BATTLE ANGEL ALITA, and feature new character designs by Nobuteru Yuki, (RECORD OF LODOSS WAR). Both GUNNM films are released in the original Japanese with English subtitles on a single VHS Hi-Fi stereo videotape. It is digitally mastered, digitally transferred and retails at \$34.95 U.S. (AD VISION).



VIDEO RELEASES

GUYVER: OUT OF CONTROL	USR	S	55 min.	\$34.95	8/25
GUYVER #4	USR	D	60 min.	\$24.95	8/25
DEVILMAN #1	DIE	S	55 min.	\$34.95	8/25
ROBOTECH PERFECT COLL. 2&3	SP	S	100 min.	\$19.95	SEPT
DOOMED MEGALOPOLIS 3	SP	D	60 min.	\$24.95	SEPT
AKIRA	SP	S	124 min.	N/A	SEPT
AREA 88 Act II	USM	S	57 min.	\$34.95	9/1
VENUS WARS	USM	D	104 min.	\$29.95	9/1
BATTLE ANGEL	ADV	S	65 min.	\$34.95	9/22
OUTLANDER	USR	D	48 min.	\$24.95	9/22
ODIN	USM	S	139 min.	\$49.99	9/25
LAUGHING TARGET (LD)	USM	S	50 min.	\$34.99	9/25
ASTROBOY VOL. 1-5	RS	D	50 min.	\$14.95	9/29
ROBOTECH PERFECT COLL. 4	SP	S	100 min.	\$19.95	OCT
DOOMED MEGALOPOLIS 4	SP	D	60 min.	\$24.95	OCT
LUPIN III WINGS OF DEATH	SP	D	30 min.	\$19.95	OCT
NEO TOKYO	SP	D	50 min.	N/A	OCT
AREA 88 Act III	USM	S	96 min.	\$39.95	10/6
GALL FORCE 2	USM	S	50 min.	\$34.95	10/6
UROTSUKIDOJI 1 (LD)	A18	D	108 min.	\$49.95	10/6
DAGGER OF KAMUI	AE	S	132 min.	\$39.95	10/6
MARIS THE CHOJO (LD)	USM	S	50 min.	\$39.99	10/25
ROOTS SEARCH (LD)	USM	S	44 min.	\$34.99	10/25
UY TV 10	AE	S	100 min.	\$39.95	10/27
AD POLICE: FILE 2	AE	S	40 min.	\$39.95	10/27
KOR LD 3	AE	S	73 min.	\$54.95	10/27
ROBOTECH PERFECT COLL. 5	SP	S	100 min.	\$19.95	NOV
LUPIN III: ALOHA LUPIN	SP	D	30 min.	\$14.95	NOV
CRYING FREEMAN 1	SP	D	N/A	N/A	NOV
SILENT MOBIUS	SP	D	50 min.	N/A	NOV
ARCADIA OF MY YOUTH	AE	S	130 min.	\$39.95	11/1
UROTSUKIDOJI 2	A18	D	88 min.	\$39.95	11/2
ULTIMATE TEACHER	USM	S	60 min.	\$39.95	11/2
RANMA 1/2 #1	VV	S	50 min.	\$29.95	11/2
MERMAID'S SCAR	VV	S	50 min.	\$34.95	11/2
ULTIMATE TEACHER (LD)	USM	S	60 min.	\$34.99	11/6
UROTSUKIDOJI 2 (LD)	A18	D	88 min.	\$49.95	11/10
UY MOVIE 4	AE	S	94 min.	\$39.95	11/24
UY TV 11	AE	S	100 min.	\$39.95	11/29
AD POLICE: FILE 3	AE	S	40 min.	\$34.95	11/29
NADIA 9	SP	D	25 min.	\$14.95	DEC
UROTSUKIDOJI PERFECT COL.	A18	D	240 min.	\$99.95	12/1

MANGA NEWS

VIZ COMICS

September issue of ANIMERICA will feature an interview with Ryoichi Ikegami. September will also bring the last issue of CRYING FREEMAN. After four years, eight Graphic Novels, the series is finally coming to its conclusion, and the tattooed assassin will make his last appearance in CRYING FREEMAN Part V, #11.

At the end of September, Viz will release the first part of the SANCTUARY Graphic Novel. Viz chose this title because it is written by the ever-popular Ryoichi Ikegami (CRYING FREEMAN, MAI THE PSYCHIC GIRL) and for its controversial socio-political nature. It was great hit. Obviously the story is excellent but the success is also due to the fact that this tale of corruption and inextricable link between politics and crime incredibly paralleled the recent political scandals that rocked Japan. SANCTUARY Part III will continue the series in October.



Beginning of October, Viz will release the first issue of the BIO-BOOSTER ARMOR GUYVER manga. This series is already well-known after several OVA series and even a live-action movie. It is the story of a young boy who find a mysterious artifact called the "guyver unit", enabling him to transform into an armored superhero. The Chronos organization will stop at nothing to retrieve the unit. Story and art by Yoshiaki Takaya. Twelve monthly issue of 32 pages. \$2.75 US (\$3.75 CAN).

October ANIMERICA will feature an interview with BATTLE ANGEL ALITA's creator, Yukito Kishiro. It also the BATTLE ANGEL OVA released by AD Vision. Finally, it includes the serialization of the manga AREA 88. This new manga feature will replace AD POLICE (which ended in the September issue) and will pick up the story exactly where it was left three years ago. If you were not following this excellent series when it was published monthly by Viz (from 1987 to 1989), you can always read the Graphic Novel compilation that is still available. In October, Rumiko Takahashi's MERMAID FOREST will come to an end and will be replaced in the December issue by the new serialization of LUM: URUSEI YATSURA, also by Takahashi.

Viz announced for November the manga event of the year! They will release a new line of comics called the "Sunrise Animation Film Comics" which will debut with MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM 0083. The thirteen issue, square-bound film comic will contain reproductions of the actual animation cels from the OVA series. The first issue of 48 full-color pages will be priced at \$4.95 US (\$6.50 CAN) and will be shipped on November 2nd. Most North American fans were introduced to the GUNDAM saga, first animated in 1979 by Sunrise, by the three-volume English translation published by Del Rey in 1991. The market was flooded by numerous toys or models based on the series, but no animation or manga were available in English. The intensity of the drama and political intrigue (not to mentioned great action and cool mecha!) involved in this science-fiction "giant robot" series has nevertheless generated a large following. GUNDAM 0083 is the latest segment in this saga. It is set three years after the end of the One-Year War and is the prequel to ZETA GUNDAM. It is the tale of a young Federation pilot who comes into violent personal contact with an obsessed Zeon mobile suit ace pilot.

Mid-November Viz will begin BATTLE ANGEL ALITA Part III. The story will concentrate on the aftermath of Alita's tragic love affair with Hugo. Ido finally finds the heart-broken and disillusioned Alita, who is now a combatant on a motorball rink! This series will have thirteen 32-page issues priced at \$2.75 US (\$3.75 CAN).

Also mid-November, Viz will release Go Nagai's VENGER ROBO. Broadcast in English under the title STAR VENGEERS. Go Nagai's classic tale of transforming robot battling evil forces began as a manga series, published by Shogakukan nearly two decades ago. Tokuma Shoten published a manga sequel GETTER ROBO GN, in 1991. Viz named the manga VENGER ROBO to remind the fans of the early popularity this series enjoyed in the U.S. Go Ichimoni, a high school track and field star, is recruited by "Nesser" organization to pilot one-third of a huge transforming robot. His companion are Sho Tachibana, daughter of Venger Robo's creator and Guy Taide. Story by Go Nagai & art by Ken Ishikawa. Seven monthly issues of 32 pages. \$2.75 US (\$3.75 CAN).



PROJECT A-KO COMIC

PROJECT A-KO, the popular anime release in North America by US Manga Corps, is coming to life as a comic book from Malibu Comics' Eternity line. Adapted by Tim Eldred with artwork by Ben Dunn, it will be offered in full color. PROJECT A-KO is the high-energy, action-packed comedy about three girls who go to school in a futuristic vision of Japan. "Two characters, A-Ko and B-Ko," Eldred said, "have a rivalry over the friendship of another girl, C-Ko. A-Ko is super strong, and B-Ko designs these incredible, giant robots and battle suits. And these two are constantly going at it, destroying the entire city. Meanwhile, out in space, there's a giant alien armada approaching the planet Earth. They're also after C-Ko because they think she is an alien princess." The story is full of what Japanese anime has become famous for: high-tech weaponry, lots of explosions, cute girls and a plot twist at the very end and that will catch the eye of every American super-hero fan. Concurrent with the launch of PROJECT A-KO comics, Malibu's marketing department is planning several important promotions, including contests with original art in prize, video give-aways and enhanced chase comics.

VIZ RELEASES

- SEPTEMBER: Animerica #7, Battle Angel Alita Pt. II #6, Crying Freeman Pt. V #11, Genocyber #4, Maison Ikkoku #4, Pixy Junket #3, Ranna 1/2 Pt. II #9, Sanctuary Pt. II #5, Sanctuary GN, Silent Mobius Pt. IV #3.
- OCTOBER: Animerica #8, Battle Angel Alita Pt. II #7, Bio-Booster Armor Guyver #1, Genocyber #5 (of 5), Maison Ikkoku #5, Nausicaä GN #5, Pixy Junket #4, Ranna 1/2 Pt. II #10, Sanctuary Pt. II #6, Silent Mobius Pt. IV #4.
- NOVEMBER: Animerica #9, Battle Angel Alita Pt. III #1 (of 13), Bio-Booster Armor Guyver #2 (of 12), Gundam 0083 #1 (of 13), Maison Ikkoku #6 (of 7), Pixy Junket #5 (of 6), Ranna 1/2 Pt. II #11 (of 11), Sanctuary Pt. II #7 (of 9), Sanctuary GN 2, Silent Mobius Pt. IV #5 (of 5), Venger Robo #1 (of 7). Plus the VIZ VIDEOS: Mermaid's scar, Ranna 1/2 #1 (of 9).

MACROSS II RPG

Palladium Books will release, at the end of September, a second volume for their MACROSS II RPG. This sourcebook, U.N. SPACY, will offer more dynamite information about Earth's military: the U.N. Spacy and their troops, including five giant infantry robots (all tremendously powerful), the Metal Siren Valkyrie, the VF-XX Zenitron Fighter, additional characters, many cut-aways, detailed drawings, close-ups and more! Compatible with RIFTS and all of Palladium's megadamage games. Written by Kevin Siembieda, cover art by John Zeleznik. 48 pages, retail price probably \$7.95.

ANOTHER ROBOTECH VIDEO COLLECTION

Streamline Pictures has resold the rights of ROBOTECH videos to Family Home Entertainment. They have not wasted any time and released again their old five-cassette series with a new packaging with Don Yee art. This video release of the Macross segment has severe cuts, but it is very well distributed and therefore more accessible. If you still don't have this classic, don't miss your chance. Streamline is still releasing its Perfect Collection.

ROBOTECH FAN CLUBS SPEAK-UP!

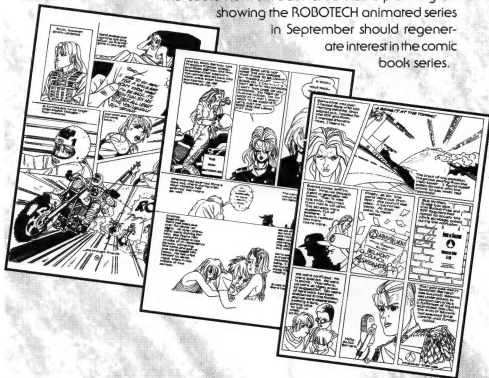
With the cable come back of our favorite old series, the new release of the novels and the coming of more novels in 1994, we really can speak of a ROBOTECH revival. If you are part of a ROBOTECH fan club, write us to let us know about your existence. Just to better organize the ROBOTECH resistance!

MORE ROBOTECH COMICS

Starting in November, ROBOTECH will be unlike anything you've ever seen or expected, said Eternity editor Mark Paniccia. What began as a four-issue series (and was continually extended because of high sales) continues as a whole new story with ROBOTECH: INVID WAR AFTERMATH™.

"I'm really excited about this series because we're doing something very different", Paniccia said. "In the past, all the other ROBOTECH storylines have dealt with adaptations or were closely based on pre-existing material. This series takes the characters past the defined continuity." The book will be written and pencilled by Bruce Lewis; it will be inked and lettered by hot newcomer Dave Lanphear, both graphic artists at Malibu Comics. "With the publication of INVID WAR #18 in October, the TV storyline of ROBOTECH ends," said Lewis, "and I felt that this presented an ideal opportunity to revamp both characters and story, to take the plot in another direction and to switch narrative techniques. So instead of the usual battle-by-battle stories of a war, AFTERMATH chronicles the efforts of the six central characters as they struggle to put together both a workable society and their own lives in the dark days following the war." The focus of the story will be on the characters, not on giant robot battle scenes or space opera.

"For the long-time fan," Lewis continues, "it's a chance to look much more deeply into the lives of your favorite characters. For the first-time reader, it's an opportunity to experience a carefully-crafted story about people set against the backdrop of a world loved by thousands of people around the world: the world of ROBOTECH". The fact that the cable network SCI FI CHANNEL is planning on showing the ROBOTECH animated series in September should regenerate interest in the comic book series.





SAILOR MOON OVERVIEW

by Alan Takahashi

So you like watching Japanese TV for the anime, but both "Ranma 1/2" and "Yowara!" are ending soon. All the newly announced shows look like they're for little girls and boys and you're starting to get bored. What should you watch? Can you avoid the dreaded "Anime Withdrawal" disease?

This was precisely the situation faced by anime TV watchers toward the middle of 1992. That's when a little known show called "Bishojo Senshi Sailor Moon" started.

Literally "Beautiful Girl Warrior Sailor Moon", this new show is produced by Toei and is aired on TV Asahi (channel 10 in the Tokyo area). Initially directed at a shojo* (girls) audience, this series has managed to also appeal to boys and adult anime fans.

The reason that "Sailor Moon" has gotten so popular is that the series' producers and writers decided to add a large dose of comedy to the goings-on and have succeeded in creating a series where many fans just die laughing when it's being shown. The cute girls and fast action don't hurt the show's popularity either.

The title character is a 14 year old girl named Usagi Tsukino. In spoken Japanese, her name would be "Tsukino Usagi" which means "Rabbit of the Moon". Usagi-chan is a spectacularly ordinary middle school girl. When we first meet her, she is about to find out that she's just failed the latest test taken (30 points out of 100!). Along the way, the kind-hearted Usagi rescues a black cat being tormented by a bunch of boys.

On her way home to maybe tell her mother about the test, Usagi notices a new video game that her friend Naru-chan had told her about...a shoot 'em up where the main character is a super-heroine called "Sailor V". After a brief moment of envy (superheroes don't have to take tests), Usagi leaves for home. The cat watches her go.

The cat reappears later in Usagi's bedroom and introduces herself as Luna. Luna's been looking for Usagi to help in her search for the missing Moon Princess. Confronted with a talking cat,

A POPULAR SHOW

- SAILOR MOON is one of the hottest anime in Japan.
- It started in March '92 and ended, after 46 episodes, in February '93. It has been replaced by SAILOR MOON R. It was watched by 12% of the viewers and the producer, Bandai, received up to 5,000 fan letters daily! It has generated several hundred dojinshi, one manga, and lots of related goods. The show was intended for 14 year-old girls (the same age than the main characters). It was successful but the concept of cute girls in mini-skirt sailor school uniforms fighting against the evil forces of the Dark Kingdom also had a huge appeal among young male fans. The cult-like success of the show came not only from its cuteness but also from the fact that it combines several popular shojo themes (superheroes, SF comedy, romance) and it is a parody of the "magical girl" genre.

- SAILOR MOON popularity is also reflected in the monthly anime character poll run by ANIMAGE magazine. One year after their debut, five of the Cute Sailor Fighters were in the Top 20: Sailor Mercury was #1 (1), Sailor Moon #5, Sailor Venus #7, Sailor Mars #11, and Sailor Jupiter #13. They were competing with Nausicaä (the long-time winner was #2 for several months!), Nadia (#4), Ranma (#11 tie), and Madoka (#20).

SAILOR MOON MILESTONES:

- **Episode 1:** Usagi meets Luna and becomes Sailor Moon.
- First appearance of Tuxedo Kamen.
- **Episode 3:** Jadeite finds out about Sailor Moon.
- **Episode 8:** Sailor Mercury appears.
- **Episode 10:** Sailor Mars appears.
- **Episode 14:** Nephrite replaces Jadeite as youma boss.
- **Episode 19:** Nephrite determines Sailor Moon's weakness - Tuxedo Kamen.
- **Episode 24:** Nephrite discovers Sailor Moon's identity.
- **Episode 25:** Zoisite takes over to try to find the ginzuishou.
- Sailor Jupiter appears.
- **Episode 33:** Sailor Venus appears.
- **Episode 34:** The ginzuishou is found.
- The Moon Princess appears.
- **Episode 35:** Tuxedo Kamen is taken by the Dark Kingdom.
- Kunisite takes over as youma boss.
- Sidebars written by C.J. Pelletier with information provided by Alan Takahashi. Additional information by Fumitsuna Maruyama, Chris Swett, and Daichi Saeki.

CHARACTER NAMES & POWERS

An other popularity poll, within SAILOR MOON cast, gave Mizuno Ami (Sailor Mercury) as favorite. Tsukino Usagi (Sailor Moon) was #2, followed by Hino Rei (Sailor Mars), Aino Minako (Sailor Venus), Kino Makoto (Sailor Jupiter), and Tuxedo Kamen. It is interesting that the name of each Sailor Fighter contains the Kanji that spells the planet of their secret identity and also refer to their special attack power.

Tsukino Usagi means "Rabbit in the Moon" (Tsuki = moon, Usagi = rabbit) and refer to the fact that ancient Japanese were seeing the shape of a rabbit in the moon. With her power "Moon Tiara Action" she throw her crescent-shape tiara like a frisbee, generally destroying her enemy.

Mizuno Ami means "Friend of water" (Mizu = water, Ami (french) = friend). Her power, "Shabon Spray", create a fog (small droplet of water in suspension) which confuses her adversary.

Hino Rei means "Ray of Fire" (Hi = fire, Rei = ray?) and her power, "Fire Soul", throws fireballs and written prayers. At the top of her attack, she recites a spell of nine kanji (Rin, Pyou, Tou, Sha, Kai, Jin, Retsu, Zai, Zen) and with each sound she make a sign with her hands. This is KU-JI NO IN, the spell of nine characters, which is a luck exorcism for combat. Mars was the Roman god of war.

Kino Makoto means "Faithfulness of Tree" (ki = tree, Makoto = faithfulness, trustworthy, straight). Her green uniform probably refers to the color of nature. Her power, "Supreme Thunder!", create a cloud of electricity (Jupiter was the Roman god of thunder), though someone mentioned that her power is rather "Flower Hurricane!" and that she throws a deadly whirlwind of flowers.

Aino Minako means "Who Love Everyone" (Ai = love, Minna = everyone). Her power, "Crescent Beam!", fires a destructive ray from her fingers. Venus is the Roman goddess of love.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Alan Takahashi is a long-time anime fan who tripped into the genre after seeing a couple of ROBOTECH episodes. Of course, it took NAUSICAA to fully draw him in. As a hobby, he works as a software engineer at Northern Telecom, making the world safe for telephones (which only proves that anime fans can pop up ANYWHERE). He was introduced to Usagi-chan at ANIME EXPO '92... and promptly collapsed in hysterical laughter... His last comment on SAILOR MOON: "If you haven't seen it yet, better hurry..."

He is, in no way, related to Rumiko Takahashi of "Ranma 1/2" fame...

Usagi does the only thing she can...she goes back to sleep trying to wake up from this dream.

Luna gets Usagi's attention by giving her a pretty brooch (Usagi likes cute things)...which also transforms Usagi into the superheroin Sailor Moon. One look at Sailor Moon and the name becomes obvious...Sailor Moon's uniform is an abbreviated version of Usagi's normal sailor school uniform.

Luna informs Sailor Moon that her other mission is to defeat the youma (demons) which come to Earth to drain human energy. The youma typically disguise themselves as human, but are really monsters with various (and nasty) powers. The frightened Sailor Moon would sit down and cry rather than fight, but she manages to defeat the youma with a little help from the mysterious Tuxedo Kamen (Masked Tuxedo). Sailor Moon, of course, immediately falls madly in love with Tuxedo Kamen.

As the series progresses, we find that the Dark Kingdom (where the youma come from) have a mission of their own. Aside from gathering human energy, the Dark Kingdom is also in search of a lost jewel called the ginzushou - a key to immense power. Sailor Moon doesn't know it yet, but it will become her responsibility to try to keep the Dark Kingdom from getting the ginzushou.

Sailor Moon will get some help in her mission as more of the Sailor Senshi (Sailor Warriors) appear and join her. Against the Sailor Senshi, more and more youma will come to Earth to complete THEIR missions. Fortunately, Sailor Mercury and the rest are better at fighting the youma than Sailor Moon is...³

Normally, a show such as "Sailor Moon" is based on an existing manga (Japanese version of a comic book). In fact, a manga written by Naoko Takeuchi DOES exist, but in a strange twist, the manga is being published at the same time as the "Sailor Moon" TV series. Because of this, there are many more stories in the TV series than in the manga...the reverse of what usually happens. The manga is published on a monthly basis, and is roughly at the same point as the TV series.

As a little girl's show, "Sailor Moon" normally wouldn't command that much attention. Why has it? For me and many others, "Sailor Moon" has a comedic touch which transcends cultural barriers. Add to that a cast of endearing characters, cute character designs, and a generally irreverent attitude and you have a truly enjoyable series.

F a c t n o t e s

- Shojo or girls' anime is characterized by having stories exploring romances and relationships. Some fans feel that this makes shojo stories more interesting than the shonen (boys') variety with its emphasis on action and combat. Note, however, that most of the popular anime in the U.S. (such as "Bubblegum Crisis") is shonen anime.
- Unlike the Western legends of a man in the moon, the Japanese have a legend of a rabbit in the moon. Hence, Usagi-chan's name is also a nod in the legend's direction. Usagi's hair style (two long ponytails) also strengthens the rabbit aspect of her appearance.
- Like Usagi, the names of the other Sailor Senshi have double meanings. The kanji used for their names are related to their respective planets, and their names also have something to do with their power. For example, Ami-chan has a Mercury kanji name and her power is a water-based power.

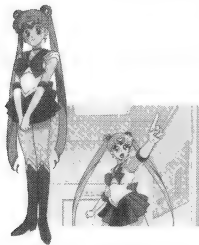


SAILOR MOON CHARACTERS

by Alan Takahashi

The Good Guys:

Sailor Moon (Usagi Tsukino)



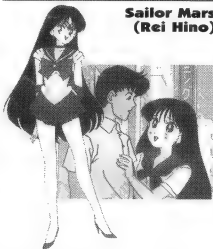
A dirty blond with two long pony tails. She is a total incompetent when it comes to school-work (and fighting youma), but Usagi-chan is a very caring person. She is often found crying about "something". Her Sailor uniform is blue and her power comes from her "Moon Tiara" and "Moon Stick". Transformation: "Moon Prism Power - Make Up!" Weapon: "Moon Tiara - Action!", "Moon Healing - Escalation!"

Sailor Mercury (Ami Mizuno)



A quiet girl with short blue hair. Ami-chan is very shy and polite. She is also a certified genius and her favorite activity is studying. Her Sailor uniform is blue and her weapon is her "Shabon Spray" (creating a fog which confuses and paralyzes youma). Sailor Mercury is the only one with a defensive weapon. Transformation: "Mercury Power - Make Up!" Weapon: "Shabon Spray!"

Sailor Mars (Rei Hino)



A Shinto priestess with long black hair. Rei is interested in the normal things like getting a boyfriend, entering wedding dress contests and visiting anime studios. She also has a fiery temper and has an intense rivalry with Usagi-chan. (I personally think that she is more like Usagi than either will admit.) Her Sailor uniform is red and her weapon is her "Fire Soul" (throwing fireballs). She also has some genuine mystical powers linked to her priestess role. Transformation: "Mars Power - Make Up!" Weapon: "Fire Soul!"

Sailor Jupiter (Makoto Kino)



By far the tallest girl among the Sailor Senshi. Makoto-chan (as Usagi calls her) is the most "Ayu-kawa"-like in that she is dangerous. She can (and has) beat up on thugs in the street. She also has a fascination with Usagi-chan's friend at the video arcade - Motoko. Her Sailor uniform is green and her weapon is her "Supreme Thunder" (creating a cloud of electricity). Transformation: "Jupiter Power - Make Up!" Weapon: "Supreme Thunder!"

Sailor Venus (Minako Aino)



Minako-chan independently became a Sailor Senshi before any of the others, and was the inspiration for the "Sailor V" game character. Initially, Sailor Moon mistakes her for the Moon Princess, but Sailor Venus is just another of the Sailor Senshi. Her Sailor uniform is orange and her weapon is her "Crescent Beam" which is a destructive ray that she can fire from her fingers. Transformation: "Venus Power - Make Up!" Weapon: "Crescent Beam!"

Luna:



The black cat that owns Usagi-chan (well, isn't it true that cats own their humans rather than the other way around?). Though Sailor Moon is the leader, Luna provides guidance for the Sailor Senshi as well as being able to create their tools (i.e. the transformation brooch and pens, Ami-chan's computer, Usagi-chan's Moon Stick and change pen, and other goodies).

Artemis:



The white cat who found Minako and has been with her for as long as she was Sailor Venus. He remembered more about the Moon Kingdom and its destruction than Luna did. He also is particularly impatient with Usagi-chan...even more than Luna is!

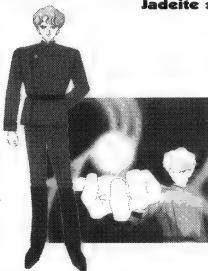
Tuxedo Kamen (Mamoru Chiba):



The mysterious masked stranger who appears to aid Sailor Moon when she's in trouble. Usually he offers a distraction in the form of a rose, then he departs. Usagi-chan is madly in love with him. As Mamoru-san, he currently has an ongoing relationship with Rei-chan, and has been having troubling dreams about a princess and a jewel...

The Bad Guys:

Jadeite :



The first of the youma bosses. His mission was very straight-forward...get a lot of human energy. He came up with scheme after scheme to get energy (and he "did" get a lot of it), but his schemes were constantly thwarted by Sailor Moon.

Nephrite :



The second of the youma bosses. He, too, wanted to get human energy, but he did it in a different way. He used humans directly to generate his youma. Nephrite was the most dangerous of the youma bosses in that he was not only very powerful, but he had a keen mind and used it to discover Sailor Moon's weaknesses, and later, to discover who Sailor Moon actually was. He was undone in the end by the love of a mere human - Naru-chan.

Zoisite :



The third of the youma bosses. Zoisite is actually a very petty man, given to very feminine attitudes. He is easily flustered when things don't go right and tends to overreact. His task is to retrieve the ginzuiso jewel.

Kunzite :



The last of the youma bosses. He had a very close relationship with Zoisite, and took it hard when Zoisite was eventually killed (Zoisite disobeyed Queen Beryl once too often). He blames Sailor Moon for this and is driven by revenge. Easily the most powerful of the youma bosses so far, his power seems to be an anti-power...able to suck away the attacks of the Sailor Senshi and a good deal more.

Queen Beryl :



She doesn't leave the realm of the youma. She is in charge of the youma bosses and dispatches them on their various missions.

SAILOR MOON SYNOPSIS

by Hitoshi Doi
edited by C.J. Pelletier

EPISODE 1

Nakimushi Usagi no karei naru henshin

aired: 1992.03.07

Usagi's mother wakes her up a little past 8:00 AM. Usagi wanted to be awakened earlier, but her mother said she tried, unsuccessfully. The mother gives her the lunch she was about to forget. On her way to the school, Usagi sees a bunch of kids picking on a black cat. She chases them away and takes off a band-aid stuck on the cat's forehead. The cat jumps away and stares at Usagi who, remembering that she's late, runs off.

She is late and the teacher makes her stand outside of the classroom. She starts to eat her lunch but she is caught by the teacher who tells her she should work better and then gives her back her test, in which she scored only 30%.

Later, Usagi is with her friend Naru-chan. Classmate Umino comes by and says he scored 95% without any special effort. Usagi being down, Naru-chan changes the subject and talks about Sailor V, a video game with a girl in a sailor suit who goes around catching criminals, like jewel thieves. Then Naru-chan tells Usagi that there is a bargain sale going on at her mother's jewelry store. Usagi says that she wants to go there.

Queen Deryl asks if the ginzushou, a silver crystal with special powers, has been discovered yet. If not, she needs the energy from humans. Jadeite answers that one of his youma is already gathering human energy.

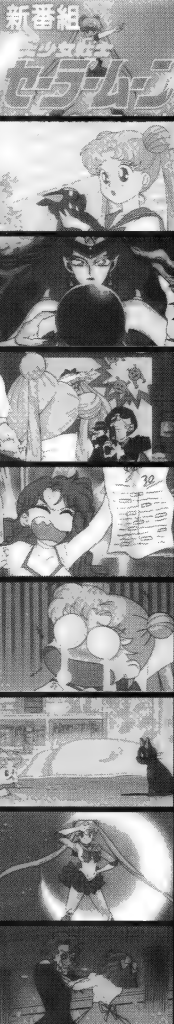
There is a big crowd at Naru-chan's mother's store. When Naru-chan introduces Usagi to her mother (in fact it is one of Jadeite's Youmas), she offers Usagi a great deal: a 500,000 yen diamond for 30,000 yen! Then a fat old woman comes up, hits Usagi away, and says that she would take it. More people come, so Usagi and Naru-chan have to crawl away.

Usagi, who could not even afford the 30,000 yen, is disappointed. And because of her bad grades, her father wouldn't buy her anything. She crumples up her test and throws it away, hitting someone's head. The guy looks at the test score and tells Usagi that she should study more. She gets mad, takes the test back, and starts walking home. She passes by the game center, and notices the Sailor V game. At home, Usagi's mother asks what score Usagi had at the test. When she sees the 30, she gets mad and throws her out of the house. Shingo, Usagi's younger brother, comes up and kicks Usagi. He says that he wanted a smarter sister. Usagi gets mad, and Shingo rushes into the house.

At Naru-chan's mother's store, a lot of the women who bought jewelry are passing out. The youma is thinking that she has collected enough energy, but then she spots Naru-chan.

Usagi is lying on her bed after her mother finally let her in. She doesn't feel like doing homework, so she falls asleep. Then the little black cat that Usagi saved earlier comes in through the window. Usagi wakes up and is surprised to discover that the cat can talk. "My name is Luna. I've been looking for you, Usagi." Usagi thinks she is dreaming so Luna gives her a brooch to convince her of the reality. Luna explains that a lot of strange incidents are going on all over Tokyo. Usagi was chosen to fight the enemy and must find the princess. But Usagi is not listening and just plays with her new brooch. Luna asks her to say, "Moon prism power, make up." At those words, Usagi begins to transform into Sailor Moon. Usagi is very surprised and still can't believe it. Then she hears Naru-chan's voice, "Help, my mother". Luna tell Usagi that she has to go help Naru-chan.

In the jewelry store, the youma is choking Naru-chan. Then Sailor Moon appears and says: "For love and justice, the sailor suit beautiful girl fighter! Sailor Moon!". The youma revives all of the women that had passed out and makes them attack Sailor Moon, who just backs away, scared. Luna tells her to fight, but she just starts crying. Then someone throws a rose as the youma was going to attack, and a masked man in a tuxedo appears. He says, "I'm Tuxedo Kamen! Nothing will be solved if you just cry, Sailor Moon!". Luna tells Sailor Moon to take her tiara and throw it saying, "Moon tiara action!", and by doing so she defeats the youma. Tuxedo Kamen says that he will remember that night and leaves. Luna says that Sailor Moon did well, but her eyes are filled with hearts.



● The next day at school, Naru-chan says that she saw a beautiful dream where someone called Sailor Moon had defeated a monster. Some classmates say that they had seen the same dream. Usagi, who was sleeping on her desk, tells them to be quiet because she is tired.

EPISODE 2

● **Oshiikiyo!**

● **Uranai house ha youma no yakata**
● **[I'll punish you!]**

● **The fortune house**
● **is a youma's mansion]**

Aired: 1992.03.14

● A lot of girls are lining up to see an old male fortune teller. Jadeite is reporting to Queen Beryl.

● Usagi is sleeping late again. It's past 8 AM, and Luna jumps on her to wake her up. At school, Haruna-sensei is taking the roll. Usagi tries to sneak into the classroom, crawling to her desk but Umino gets up and says good morning to her. Haruna sends them to the hallway. Later, Umino calls Naru-chan to talk about wanting to go on a date with Usagi. Naru thinks that a direct approach will not work and she suggests that he go and see a fortune teller.

● Usagi goes to the old fortune teller. Wondering why there is nobody in line, she's told that there is a new fortune teller more popular than the old man. She asks him to tell her her fortune anyway. He says "You are liked by some boy right now. A boy that you see all the time". Then she goes to the game center and arrives at the same time as Motoki. He offers her to play the Sailor V game but she is not doing very well. He helps her but Luna interrupts. She jumps up and pulls Usagi out. Motoki says goodbye and tells her he is happy whenever he sees her face. Outside Usagi gets mad at Luna for bothering her. Luna says it is not good to play on the way home from school.

● Usagi wants to have her fortune told again. To decide if she should go to the old man or the other place, she kicks off her shoe high into the air and hits Chiba Mamoru who's walking down the street behind her. He says "If you don't behave more gracefully, you won't get any boyfriends!"

● Umino is at the new fortune teller's house. A woman (a youma) is getting control of the crowd that is attending, saying that they are serving the evil and that they could do anything they wish. Usagi walks home and meets

● her father coming back from shopping for her mother. She thinks Motoki is as kind as her father.

● At school, Naru-chan tells Usagi that Umino likes her but can't say so. The next day, Umino comes dressed in a funny suit and tie. He asks Usagi right away to go out and is doing odd things like flicking up Haruna's skirt, reading manga and laughing out loud. The other students also act strange. Somebody trips Haruna, and others throw rocks at a school window. It seems that only those who went to the new fortune teller behave this way. This time Jadeite is capturing the energy of a rebellious youth.

● Usagi and Naru-chan run up to Umino and the other students. Umino wants to kiss Usagi, and she starts crying very loudly causing Umino to leave. Luna says she feels some bad energy and that the students are being possessed. Usagi links their behavior to the fortune teller and asks Luna for another new item as a reward. Luna refuses and they go to the fortune teller's shop. Usagi transforms "Moon Prism Power. Make up!" Inside the shop, the youma is talking to the students. Sailor Moon interrupts. "For love and justice, the sailor suit beautiful fighter Sailor Moon. I'll punish you for the moon!". The youma throws a fortune telling card at her. The possessed students come closer to Sailor Moon but then a rose comes flying at the youma. It's Tuxedo Kamen! "No matter how bad the situation is, don't give up," he says. The youma attacks Sailor Moon but she defeats her with the Moon tiara.

● The next day on the way to school, Naru-chan talks to Umino who despairs of his own behavior. But Usagi tells him not to worry about it. "Damn," she tells herself. "He doesn't know what I had to go through."

EPISODE 3

● **Nazono nemuribyou,**
● **mamore otomono koisuru kokoro**

Aired: 1992.03.21

● Usagi and Naru-chan are listening to a late night radio program where they read love letters. The announcer says that the letter was from a Haruna, the same name as their teacher. The announcer, Jay Daitou, says that a flower brooch will be sent to those whose letters get read on air. Usagi thinks that she never wrote a love letter before. But Luna yells at her to go to sleep since she has a very important mission.

● The next morning, Usagi's father is reading a newspaper article saying that a lot of people are getting a disease that makes them fall

asleep. Usagi comes to the kitchen saying that she's late. She grabs a piece of toast and runs off to school. She thinks that her teacher will scold her, but when she gets to her class Haruna-sensei is not there. Then a very sleepy Haruna struggles into the classroom, starts to take roll, but stops and falls asleep on her desk. Usagi notices that Haruna has a new flower brooch.

Luna is talking to herself while walking down the street and Moroki says "Hi" to her. Luna thinks that he heard her, but he just pets her. Luna sees an ambulance go by; it is taking Haruna away. When Naru-chan tells Usagi about the recent wave of people with similar symptoms, Usagi says that it might be fun to sleep and dream all the time.

At radio station FM no. 10, the manager is going through some fan mail for a program that doesn't exist, Midnight Zero. A woman manager comes up and says that she will take care of them.

After school, Naru-chan tells Usagi that she has written many love letters to Midnight Zero. When Usagi asks who she wrote them to, Naru-chan says that it didn't matter. Usagi gets the idea to write one herself. Distracted, Usagi runs into a light pole. She apologizes but when she looks up, she sees Mamoru laughing at her. He tells her not to be off in space, and she gets upset. At home Usagi tries without success to write a love letter. She thinks that she could ask Jay Daitou how to write one. She goes to the radio station with Luna, but the guard at the gate tells her that there is no such radio show. She returns and listens to Midnight Zero. She says that the guard lied but Luna finds out that the show is not listed in the newspaper. On the radio, Jay Daitou announces that this night's love letter is by Naru-chan.

The next day at school, Naru-chan is showing her friends the flower brooch that she received, the same kind as the one Haruna had. Naru-chan puts her brooch on and falls asleep. When Usagi gets close to her, the gas from the brooch makes her fall asleep too. She dreams that she is with Tuxedo Kamen. Just as Tuxedo Kamen is pulling off his mask to show his true identity, Luna yells at Usagi to wake her up. She's in the nurse's office and Luna says that there must be something going on at the radio station. Jadeite is using the flower brooches to steal the energy from the dreams of the young girls in love.

Usagi and Luna go to the radio station and, to get past the guard, Luna gives Usagi a magic pen. By saying "moon power", Usagi transforms into a pretty announcer. Jay Daitou looks

cool to Usagi, but Luna tells her that he is the enemy. Jadeite has taken over the radio station. Usagi goes into the announcer's booth and warns everyone over the air waves. Jadeite gets mad. The youma jumps into the announcer's booth, changes to her normal ugly form and tries to blast Usagi, but she transforms into Sailor Moon. The blast creates a hole on the roof, and Sailor Moon jumps outside. When the youma comes after her, Sailor Moon uses her "moon tiara action" to defeat it. Then she faces off against Jadeite. Sailor Moon uses her "moon tiara action" again, but Jadeite stops it. Jadeite is going to go after Sailor Moon, but Tuxedo Kamen arrives, and Jadeite retreats.

The next day, everyone who was under the spell wakes up. At school Usagi is busy writing a love letter to Tuxedo Kamen. Naru-chan takes the letter and says that Midnight Zero has ended. Usagi says that she is going to give it to her boy friend in person. Naru-chan wants to read it. While Usagi is chasing Naru-chan, Haruna-sensei comes into the classroom. Usagi shouts, "Give me my love letter back!" Haruna goes after them saying that they want to see the love letter too.

EPISODE 4

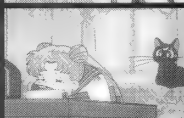
Usagi ga oshiemasu! Slim ni naruhou

Aired: 1992.03.28

Usagi comes out of the bath and weighs herself... and screams out because she gained weight. Her parents say that it's all right. But after a while they say that she eats a lot, doesn't study, and doesn't exercise. Usagi starts crying. Luna tells her not to cry. She should eat less and exercise instead. Luna draws a picture of what Usagi could look like in a half year: a very fat Sailor Moon. Usagi gets mad at Luna.

The next day at school during lunch, Usagi isn't eating anything and just stares at Naru, who's eating. Later Usagi tells her classmates that she is on a diet. The girls try to help her out. One suggests swimming, but Naru says that Haruna-sensei has recently become slim. Umino shows two pictures of Haruna in gym clothes, before and after. Naru and Usagi chase after Umino asking him where he got the pictures. He says he followed Haruna but Usagi is only interested in where the shape-up salon is.

Usagi, Naru, and their two friends go to the salon. They fear it would be too expensive, but there is a free trial going on, and they decide to go. A blonde instructor (Jadeite) greets them. They separate and do various





exercises. Usagi is doing a rowing exercise, but is getting very tired. Naru rides an exercise bike but rests after a while; Jadeite tells her that she can't become beautiful if she rests, so she exercises very hard. When the girls finish, Jadeite takes Naru and the other two girls to the special shape-up beams. Usagi is resting in a jet bath thinking it is hard to lose weight. She is also very hungry.

Naru and friends go into the machine, as Jadeite says that they will lose a lot of weight. Queen Beryl calls and Jadeite reports that things are going well because lots of foolish girls are releasing energy to get beautiful. When the girls finish and come out of the shape-up beam machine, Jadeite tells them that they look beautiful. He tells them to also come the next day. Naru and her friends don't look very well, but they listen to Jadeite.

Usagi is sad that Naru and her friends left without her. She's walking home alone. Usagi stares at the food carried by a boy and scares him away. She walks by the game center, and Motoki arrives just in time to catch her as she's going to fall. Usagi says she is hungry.

Usagi dreams of Motoki and she's going to kiss him. She wakes up as he put some soup to her mouth. He asks her why she hasn't eaten anything since the day before. He asks if Usagi's mother refused to feed her because she got bad scores on the tests. She says that she is on a diet. Motoki laughs and says that she doesn't need a diet. She should even gain some weight. He thinks that a chubby girl is cuter than a skinny one. Usagi is very happy. She walks home while eating. Mamoru comes by and jokes about her. She gets mad and throw her food at him. He catches it and eats it himself. In a park Usagi sits down and talks with Luna. Luna reminds Usagi that Motoki likes chubby girls. Luna reminds Usagi that Motoki said, "a little chubby", not "fat". Usagi, thinking about how much she ate, imagines herself getting fat. Luna is trying to explain that the girls and Haruna are getting skinny very suddenly. She guesses that it must be something at the shape-up salon. But Usagi isn't listening. Usagi agrees to go to the salon but only because she wants to lose more weight herself.

At the salon, Usagi is exercising like crazy. Watching from the window, Luna spots a skinny Haruna and follows her. She goes into Jadeite's machine. Jadeite says that Haruna has reached the limit, with no more energy left, and that she could die. Luna immediately runs back to Usagi, knocking her off from the exercise bike. Luna runs outside, Usagi chasing after her, very mad. But Luna puts her

claws in Usagi's face. She tells her about Haruna and asks her to transform.

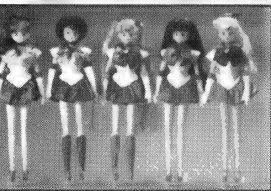
Sailor Moon goes to Jadeite, who watches over Haruna. He sends three large instructors after Sailor Moon. She's surrounded. Luna tells her to break the rings on their heads, which are controlling them. But Sailor Moon just runs away. Then Luna says that fighting might make her lose some weight! Sailor Moon kicks and punches the instructors, then uses the moon tiara action to break their rings.

Later at home, Usagi is in the bath and is feeling pretty well. But when she weighs herself, she cries out that despite the exercise she gained weight.

Synopses are made from the manga, so it might differ from the anime. Synopsis for Episode #2 was written by C.J. Pelletier with the help of Hitoshi Doi's script.

For more details on SAILOR MOON: ANIMAGE 181: 20-27; ANIMEDIA 3-92: 16-17; B-CLUB 82: 78-85; HOBBY JAPAN 7-93 (290): 4-31; MANGAZINE 21: 13-23; NEWTYPE 8-92: 151-157, 2-93: 14-17, 3-93: 4-11, 5-93: 12-17, 6-93: 14-17 and two Sailor Moon books: one 8 1/4 x 6 3/4, 136 pgs, \$19.50 and another 8 1/4 x 10, 66 pgs, \$14.95 (both available at Nikaku Animate).





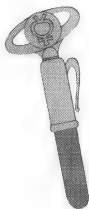
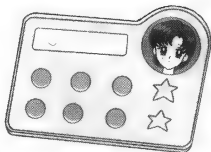
SAILOR MOON GOODS

by Claude J. Pelletier



ANIME GOODS

Like all popular animations, SAILOR MOON has generated a large number of related goods: figurines, toys, posters, and several objects with SAILOR MOON characters' pictures on them. According to Yukiko Takahashi of Bandai's Public Relations department, those goods have been selling well. As an example, nearly half a million of the "Moon Stick" (which retails at ¥3,300) were sold between their release in September and Christmas 1992! There are also various kinds of gadgets (transformation pens, communicator, etc.) and figurines sold by several companies, some Super Deformed, and even dolls! Some of them are illustrated here. You can find more details in July '93 issue of HOBBY JAPAN (#290). Some of these items can be found at Nikaku Animate or Newtype Hobbies & Toys.



A QUICK REVIEW

SAILOR MOON is very popular in Japan and they talk a lot about it on the computer nets. Therefore it must be good. Though several members of our staff found it disgustingly cute and refused to see more of it. Jean Carrière said about it: "The plots are awfully predictable and naive. The animation is unimpressive. The music, when there is some, is bland. Yet there is this ineffable quality to the episodes, this aura of youth and hope that is such an important part in "teenage"-oriented Japanese series." For my part, after watching the LD vol. 1 (episodes 1 to 4), I found it totally hilarious. I would not refuse watching another volume. That's the only thing that counts. ***

CJP

BISHOJO SENSHI SAILOR MOON Vol. 1 (eps 1-4), Toei Laser Disc, LSTD01068, CLV, 104 min., ¥5,900 (\$64.00 US or Nikaku Animart).

STAFF: Original Story: Naoko Takeuchi; Producers: Kenji Ota, Iriya Azuma; Series Director: Junichi Sato; Character Designer: Kazuko Tadano (Studio Live); Art Designer: Takamura Muiuo; Art Supervisor: Tadao Kubota; Music: Takanori Arisawa; Screenplay: Sukehiro Tomita, Shigeru Yanagawa, Katsuyuki Sumisawa; Directors: Junichi Sato, Takao Yoshizawa, Kazuhisa Takenouchi, Harume Kosaka; Animation Directors: Hiromi Matsushita, Katsuji Matsumoto, Kunihiko Natsume, Kiyoshi Matsumoto. VOICE: Usagi: Kotono Mitsuishi; Luna: Keiko Han; Mamoru Chiba: Toru Furuya.



Naoko Takeuchi
Original Story, Manga

MANGA

SAILOR MOON's manga is written by Naoko Takeuchi and is serialized, in 40-page installments, in the monthly shōjo manga KAKUYOSHI. Since it began running, the sales of the magazine have doubled. Takeuchi said that she never dreamed that SAILOR MOON would be so popular. Though she tries to surprise her audience, she says that she "just uses the basic pattern of manga". As it is difficult to keep the same pace in a monthly manga as in a weekly TV show, there are some differences. The manga is also collected and re-released in larger volumes. Here is a sample of the first compilation, published by Kodansha Comics. The manga can be found at Kinokuniya Book Store or Nikaku Animart. ☺

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BOOK REVIEW

TOKUMA'S MAGICAL ADVENTURE SERIES

Magnificent stories! TOKUMA PUBLISHING has released in book format three fantastic stories as told in animation by the great Hayao Miyazaki: LAPUTA (Castle in the Sky), KIKI'S DELIVERY SERVICE, and MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO.

Assembled in a collection — Tokuma's Magical Adventure Series, these animation classics have been gently (I mean it!) adapted in English, and however children oriented, beauty lies within each story. Jacketed hardback color books (large and thick), they are perfect for the animation fan and make fantastic gifts for children. With the theatrical release of MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO in North America, it is the perfect opportunity to introduce friends and a new generation of children to Japanese animation.

Offer these books — just TOTORO if you must — to friends who are parents (and even to a kid brother or sister): they will appreciate the stories as well as (unbeknownst to themselves) discover a different culture. In fact, because they're different, the books make even better presents for people much too familiar with contemporary children's stories and who seeks something new for their children or even themselves. It is so rare to see a book where a parent encourages a child's imagination rather than puts it down, and TOTORO alone is worth it just for that.

By the way, don't worry too much when you read any of them: the child within will awake with a great big Totoro smile!

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"Kiki's Delivery Service" (US\$14.95, CAN\$19.95)

TOKUMA PUBLISHING

At the end of September, Tokuma will also release NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND in two volumes 8"x10", 112 pages each, \$19.95 U.S. (\$26.95 Can).

You may find these books in your local bookstore. If not, try Kinokuniya or Nikaku Animart. You can also order from Tokuma Publishing, 10900 NE 4th, Suite 4150, Bellevue, WA 98004.

LYCEEENNE

"Printemps de la jeune fille, petite fille de l'été, automne de la dame, et hiver..."

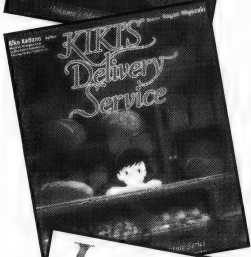
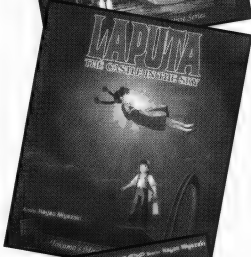
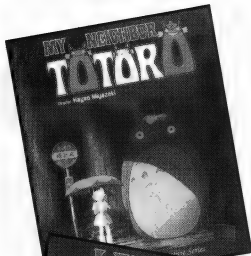
This is the (corrected) introduction of U-JIN's hard cover release of his/her art. Loosely translated, "Lycéeenne" is a high school girl. The introductory cover text reflects the organization and evolution of the book: It follows the four seasons (Spring (printemps), Summer (été), Fall (automne), and winter (hiver)). Each section pictures beautiful girls in various states of dress and undress. Some of the pictures might be considered daring, if not suggestive, but without any malice or pornographic intent.

It's the same art style that readers of ANGEL have seen over the years: clean and beautiful. The attention to feminine details makes us think that U-JIN is probably a she: drawing female subjects is already a difficult task, and women have generally been more successful than men in that regard.

The book itself is of high quality (paper, printing and presentation). For illustrators, it is a recommended reference just for the character expressions, details and overall art. The small black and white section adds nicely to the whole. The only drawback is that there are very few complete body "shots". The great majority of the art falls under the "portrait" shots. Nonetheless, if you're looking for excellent examples of young girl art in the Japanese style, "Lycéeenne" is the book you need.

You can find Lycéeenne at Nikaku Animart

Reviews by Patrick Lapointe



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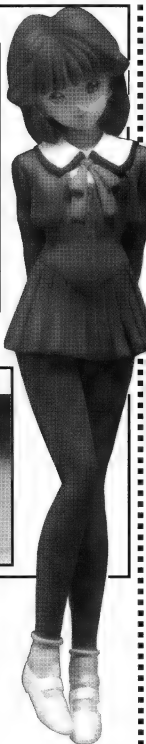
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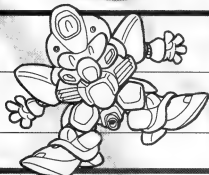
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MODEL REVIEWS

by Martin Ouellette

Dragon Ball Figures

As many people know, DragonBall Z is a very popular series that has spawned an incredible amount of merchandizing goods. One of the most popular forms of these goods are the figures. At first, only garage kits were available, but as the series grew more and more popular, Bandai decided to try to hit the lower end of the fan spectrum (the kids, who do not necessarily have a lot of money to put into their hobby) and began to put out mass produced 1/12th scale figures at a reasonable price (between 1000 and 1800 yen). These figures were very popular in both Japan and the States but were hard to find for American fans. Well, no more! These famous 1/12th scale figures are now imported and distributed by Horizon Hobbies and Toys. Molded in high quality vinyl, these figures come fully painted and packaged in a beautifully illustrated box that can double as a stand. Each of the figures comes with its accessories and the available characters (for the moment) are Son Goku, Vegeta, Trunks (in his normal and super-saiyan version), Son Gohan, Kiririn and, of course, Piccolo Daimaoh. They are available at your favorite anime dealer.

#1 Son Goku

Strangely, although this is the figure of the leading character, it is the least resembling of the four we have seen so far. The shape of the body is alright by itself, but the head is totally wrong. The facial features do not work and the hair is a total mess. The coloring is nearly perfect and the figure comes with a small sheet of stickers. It goes for 1200 yen. ***



#2 Vegeta

This figure is the smallest and the simplest of the ones we saw. The uniform is the standard super-saiyan (without the shoulder pads, though) and was very well realized. But, as with the Son Goku figure, the facial features are somehow wrong. This one has no accessories and goes for 1000 yen.





#6 Piccolo Daimaoh

The biggest of the four, Piccolo is also one of the best, if only for his very well realized cape made of soft vinyl. The application of the paint was also carefully done, as the coloration scheme of Piccolo is rather complicated. The only thing is that his face does not quite render the extremely humorless spirit of the character, but he still looks very good. Goes for 1800 yen. Nor Bad! ****

#7 Trunks

This one is a blast! It seems that Bandai has caught the way to do these characters. The coolest of the four we have seen, Trunks comes with his famed sword and scabbard and the reproduction of his face and expression is nearly uncanny. The application of the paint is near flawless as well as the pose. The best buy for 1200 yen. *****



CEL-OUT!

HAND MADE CUSTOM CELS

Alan R. Nepomuceno (ARNie for short) has been doing cels for almost seven years, and all of his work is entirely inked and painted by hand. He is adept in replicating anime scenes and characters as well as creating his own from scratch, and has recently begun doing Anime Caricatures. The artist is available for commission work and he even puts out a regular and adult mail-order catalogue!

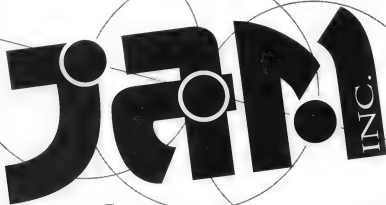


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WHIMSICAL EPISODE GUIDE

by Alain Dubreuil

EPISODE 25

Risky Self-Hypnosis! Kiyosuke-kun Changed

Breakfast time! Kiyosuke is suffering from acute indecisiveness! He ends up hypnotizing himself, wanting to have a stronger ego. Kiyosuke is no longer Kiyosuke.

Late for school, he teleports, ends up in a tree and falls in front of Hikaru. His wise remark: "I flew to get to you sooner." He tells Komatsu to be straightforward with girls while winking at Madoka. He ends up swamped by females, saying he's too busy to go and have lunch with Hikaru: the other girls have already fed him. Hikaru comments about her Darling being into a rebellious stage... or something, getting a laugh from Madoka as an answer.

Kiyosuke bluntly invites Madoka to the disco, setting their first official date, cruise control on overdrive: "Because of you I've changed". At the disco, the new ruthless playboy attracts other girls while Madoka recovers in the rest room. She grabs him out. He declares his love, but Madoka lands him in a fountain, telling him she liked him better the way he used to be. He snaps out of his hypnosis, falling back into his old grooves, wondering why he's wet and why Madoka is there.

Next day, Hikaru intends to take back, by force if necessary, what is rightfully hers, her own and only darling from "madly entranced no-good female suitors".

EPISODE 26

Kid Kiyosuke's Approach to Madoka.

Lovers' quarrel! Madoka chastises Kiyosuke for he has lent her notebook to some girl and it came back in a pitiful state. She "genitly" shoves him: the shoe boxes spill their contents as she turns about and leaves.

Kiyosuke follows Madoka, seeking forgiveness. He's caught in the act (peeping) at AbCb by Kazuya. The latter, after commenting that Kiyosuke will go nowhere with women, makes him an offer he can't refuse: "Let's mind switch so you can use my telepathy and know what she's thinking!" There's a sucker born every minute. Kiyosuke is a fifteen year-old sucker.

Kazuya steals Kiyosuke's body, while Kiyosuke is stuck in Kazuya's. Hikaru happens on the scene and bold Kazuya - trying out his new body - takes her out to a movie, to the joy of Hikaru. Kiyosuke, soon after the disappearance of the happy couple, is beaten up by kids Kazuya annoyed.

Later, Kiyosuke decides to follow Madoka, playing a game of hide and bump-into-various-objects-and-people. That is until he bumps in the wrong people: three burns hit him for his money. Here she comes to save the day, Madoka! She rescues him from the bunch, but gets an orange wet-shirt. She decide that both of them will clean up at her home. She changes in front of a hormonally confused Kiyosuke. Yet, he notices something he did not expect: she kept a photo of both of them (at the beach) in her room. She tells him not to rattle to Kiyosuke, it would only go to his head.

Meanwhile, Kazuya did not get to see Godzilla in 3-D, but rather a sappy adult romance, where he learns a couple of important details nonetheless. He also got ambushed by Mr. "Silent and Deadly", Yuhsaku, who licks his hard earned wound.

Kiyosuke and Kazuya finally meet again, but Kazuya refuses the transfer, offering to settle things with Madoka. As he tries to kiss her, Kiyosuke at the last moment manages to effect a transfer, while Madoka is still standing, eyes closed...

EPISODE 27

Targeted Madoka!! Kiyosuke's Proof of Manhood

A truck hits Madoka! Why? Upon hearing of the news, Kiyosuke rushes gleefully (as Kazuya notes) to be her bedside... nurse. He arrives, but Hikaru is already in place, grabbing the flowers away from Kiyosuke's hands. They must be for her. Madoka is silent.

Kiyosuke meets with a girl gang who are seeking Madoka out. His worry level increases. He dreams of Madoka surrounded and he being helpless. He takes a manly decision. He outfits himself in combat gear to become Madoka's protector. Hikaru replaces Madoka at AbCb, while Haruo and Komatsu try to

make a special interest film. Madoka is moody and absent. Finally, the next day, while everybody is at AbCb, she spills Hikaru's special dessert. Hikaru is hurt and Madoka walks away to be joined by Kyosuke by the riverside.

Meanwhile, the girl gang lay waste at AbCb, where Hikaru pretends that she's Madoka. Everybody gets beaten up, except Madoka and Kyosuke. They are warned by the beaten Hatta and Komatsu. Madoka decides to face the gang. The battle is about to begin when the gang leader shows up on the scene: It's all a misunderstanding, she just wanted to thank Madoka for saving her dog.

EPISODE 28

Big Decision!

Manami's Big Adventure

Manami disguises herself and steps out for a day. It's her time to be a girl. Hatta and Komatsu pass her in the street. She salutes them and they do not recognize her: their hormones go bonkers! She tries to find herself a boyfriend, to no avail. At home, Kurumi cooks something... to no avail. Kyosuke saves her the tears by eating the slightly spicy meal and then some more. His throat is like a raging volcano and his voice changes to a husky, manly tone. Wow!

Manami is noticed and pursued by a local girl gang. She is rescued by a passing Kyosuke. Luckily for him, she loses her contacts and can't recognize him, but he does. They run away, Madoka and Hikaru witnessing this scene of infidelity. Brother and sister go out on a date, and Manami explains her situation, how she feels a bit like a prisoner at home. Kyosuke tries to make this day a bright one.

Kyosuke is surprised by Hikaru and Madoka, but they quickly realize who the girl is. They let them be. Later, Manami tells her brother how she'd like a boyfriend like him and waits for a kiss. Kyosuke gently brushes her off and says good-bye. The gang finds Manami again and this time Madoka saves her. Manami recognizes her, and Madoka hands her her glasses. Manami breaks into tears. She finally goes back home to witness her brother's handiwork: he did all the chores.

EPISODE 29:

Don't Cry Jingoro!

Period of Love & Seishun.

The episode opens on a dream sequence: Kyosuke is putting Kazuya to sleep with the tale of a child looking for his mother. Manami and Kurumi return, saying Jingoro was impossible. He wants to go out badly. Since it's spring

time, boys will be boys. Jingoro, the family guesses, is on fire!

After a Nintendo all-niter with Kazuya, Kyosuke faints at school. Hikaru is of course at his bedside. Kyosuke tries to explain the situation with Jingoro. She blushes, presuming that Kyosuke is hinting that he wants her. Her fantasy is now a reality as she goes to clean up for the big moment. Yuhsaku, overhearing Hikaru's loudly voiced thoughts, leaps in the infirmary before she returns. Better luck next time, Hikaru.

Madoka, on the other hand, found a stray cat and took it home. Hikaru drops by and comments: "what are you going to name it?" As the cat seems unable to decide between the two girls, Hikaru suggests Kyosuke. Madoka cuts her off: it's a girl.

With the help of the Dumb Duo (Hatta and Komatsu) and Kazuya, a panel of fine lady cats is assembled for Jingoro's perusal. He cannot decide. Kyosuke asks Kazuya to mind swap with Jingoro. Jingoro is now inhabited by Kazuya. Meanwhile, Hikaru, Madoka and her cat are set up by Weird Yatchan's boys. The cat is his. At the junkyard, the dance begins. Kazuya the cat and Kyosuke are in hot pursuit of Jingoro the brat. The latter stops at AbCb to find out from a puzzled Master where Madoka is: the cat she has is his mom! Everybody ends up at the junkyard. Yatchan is defeated and Jingoro the brat leaps to be repelled by his mother's claws! Jingoro and Kazuya mind swap again. Jingoro's mother ignores him, but he gains two better ones.

EPISODE 30

Kurumi's First Love - Hell Edition

Watch our world, Kurumi's in looove! She has a crush on a young soccer player, Jun Hayami. She does not know what to do, while Kyosuke is puzzled by her behavior. He tells Hikaru and Madoka who know exactly what's happening. In fact, comments Hikaru, "Hasn't Madoka-san also been acting strangely lately?", which Madoka rebuffs by a stifled "Hikaru".

Madoka receives a letter by Hayami: he's leaving and he declares his admiration for her. They meet at school. Kyosuke sees them and concludes that Madoka is in love with Hayami. Later, confused, he gets home only to see Kurumi run off for a date with Hayami! Kyosuke, knowing that he's a no good two-timer, convinces Manami to help him: she'll disguise herself as Kurumi and expose the leech!

At the burger joint, the date is in full swing, with Kurumi trying to make conversation. She ex-



EPISODE 32

He is back in the past, barely an hour before. He meets his best friends who conceal their party favors. After meeting his sisters, he then chances on an argument between Madoka and Hikaru, he steps in the store to apologize. Hikaru, not understanding, tells him about the surprise party and that it's also her birthday. He finally discovers he's in the past and runs home: he has to deal with his other self.

Kyosuke and K2 fantasize about the possibility of solving their love dilemma. K2 finally makes the beau geste and will time slip away. At the stairs, the wishy-washyness returns: a dispute ensues on who will go. They both tumble and time slip. Kyosuke finds himself alone, at the right time and place. K2 is but a bit late.

EPISODE 33

Suspicious Madoka!

True-Intention Mushrooms

Hikaru dreams of Kyosuke, but he disappears to reappear on the horizon, walking hand in hand with Madoka as their clothes transform to wedding apparel. She awakes doubting. The group is off with Master on a hiking trip. Masters lectures them about mushrooms types, and tells the story of the blue wonder: the truth mushroom! This mushroom when eaten forces one to tell the truth and reveal the feelings hidden in their hearts. Everyone is interested, particularly Hikaru and Yuhaku. They pair off by lottery: Kyosuke had rigged it to be with Madoka (who had agreed), but it backfires and he pairs off with Hikaru, leaving Madoka with Komatsu, Hatta with Kurumi, and Manami with Yuhaku. Mischievous Kurumi uses power to turn some mushrooms blue: all the mushrooms in the vicinity are now colored in a beautiful blue.

While Hikaru seeks a mushroom desperately, Kyosuke sneaks off to apologize to Madoka. He teleports and arrives bumping in Madoka who was bending to pick up a... blue mushroom: she swallowed a piece. She cuddles into his arms. She is bitten by a snake and falls to the ground. Kyosuke cleans and sucks the poison out. She takes a handkerchief to clean his mouth, and they enter the kissing zone. Hikaru stands looking, aghast (again), then runs away in tears with Kyosuke in pursuit.

Chaos reigns supreme as Hikaru bowls the events in her path: she pushes Komatsu into eating a blue one, slops laughing Yuhaku (trying to declare his love), and moves through Hatta and Kurumi (poor Hatta, wallowing in self-pity). Hikaru makes for the suspended bridge: it gives beneath her step. Kyosuke reaches for her: "Come back!" She tells him to stay back, then asks him to eat the blue mushroom. She wants the truth. "If I eat it, will you come back with me?" She agrees. As he reaches for it, the rest of the bridge collapses, almost throwing the pair to their death. Madoka arrives on the scene, riding a borrowed horse. She lassoes Kyosuke and Hikaru, and, with the help of the horse, saves them. As the three catch their breath, sitting in a triangular fashion, Kyosuke decides to tell his true feeling nonetheless. Hikaru stops him. She says she knows.

On the way back, Kyosuke finds his loving Komatsu. At this point, all the mushrooms return to their original color. Kurumi spills the beans and reveals that the effect are canceled when a person is bit in return (the snake!) Kyosuke remembers that Madoka tried to kiss

- him after she was bitten. Smiling at him.
- Madoka runs off.

EPISODE 34

Roots Search Panic!

Madoka in Wonderland

Kyosuke invites the gang (minus the Dumb Duo) to his grand-parents' mountain village for a festival. Suddenly, Kyosuke realizes that his grand-parents use their power without any restraint. He runs ahead to warn his grand-parents, but his grandfather has already reached the group, dazzling them with magic Jingoro tricks.

After a chat with his grandparents, Kyosuke is asked by grandfather: "Which one is your girlfriend?" Surprised, Kyosuke yelps, attracting Hikaru and Madoka's attention. After chopping some wood, where Yuhaku proves his manliness (again!), grandfather pours himself whisky... on snow. Madoka and Hikaru notice and wonder where this snow comes from. Before he can babble, Kyosuke stops him. Then grandfather spins a tale: how a young city photographer won the hand of a beautiful girl by climbing Mount Tengu and bringing back snow to drink with his future father-in-law. Hikaru is charmed while Madoka daydreams.

Suddenly the sky darkens and Jingoro falls in the nearby raging stream. The group runs on the banks to rescue the beast. Madoka slips and falls in the river. Kyosuke dives and rescues her. He carries an unconscious Madoka back to a cabin and starts a fire. He hesitates: "should I remove her wet, cold, clothes?" Grandfather enters the shed with Jingoro, awakening Madoka, who wonders what's happening.

At the festival, there's a great fire. Madoka and Kyosuke are alone at a shooting stand where Kyosuke desperately tries to win a prize. She asks if the story was Kyosuke's parents. He does not answer. She tells him how to shoot better, then notices a doll she likes: "After all, women always wish the men they love succeed," she says. He pulls the trigger to Madoka's joy.

EPISODE 35

H with Camera!

Robot Kyosuke-chan

Kyosuke is hypnotized and becomes vulnerable to suggestions. With the Dumb Duo in command, he becomes the Panty Pilferer, roaming even in plain public view as certain models can attest. The Dumb Duo has a new idea: Ayukawa-no nudo. They want to see pictures of Ayukawa nude.





● Sorry for them, his susceptibility to suggestions strike: at AbCb, Madoka tells him to go help Hikaru in moving furniture around. Yuhaku is there, of course, reminding him that he had told him not to come yesterday. He's about to leave but Hikaru cancels the order. During the move, Kyosuke uncovers Hikaru's panties drawer and takes one. Hikaru fantasizes that Kyosuke did it because he wants her so (right!). Kurumi and Manami arrive to rescue their hypnotized brother, but Yuhaku snaps and tells him to go: he teleports to the Dumb Duo then home to get a camera, for the nude pictures. His father asks him to bring back some cigarettes, while on the way Kazuya asks him to buy ice cream.

● The command overload finds itself accomplished at AbCb's, where Kyosuke corners Ayukawa to take the pictures. He locks the door, closes the blinds, and she goes along with the joke until he starts snapping. She tries to run, but he chases her until the whole family bangs at the door to enter. Madoka conceals Kyosuke who came to his senses. Manami explains after more than two orders, he should have snapped out. Madoka goes to the hiding Kyosuke who expects a slap... but gets a smile and a tweak.

● EPISODE 36 Farewell Kyosuke! Power Recorded on Video

● The famous Komatsu Productions are filming for the school's contest. Problem: Kyosuke is bumped inadvertently and falls to his death in the stairs shaft until he teleports in front of the duo. They accuse him of being an ESPer and will reveal his secret unless Kyosuke agrees to star in Komatsu's Superman. Kyosuke denies the fact.

● The Duo is on the loose, trying to force him to use his powers. Finally, they plot with naive Hikaru: in the last scene, she will push him from the rooftop. Meanwhile, Kyosuke surprises Madoka rehearsing. The moment is oddly intense: "I want to make the memories one by one" she says as they touch.

● The big finale is on: Hikaru pushes Kyosuke, but she's carried along! Kyosuke hangs on to ledge while Hikaru holds on to him. Hikaru apologizes for believing Komatsu. Manami and Kurumi try to bring a mattress, but they are confused. Hatta brings the trampoline, and he's telekinetically helped by the twins. Too late... Kyosuke tries to pull himself and Hikaru up on the ledge with power, but it crumbles. They fall. He teleports them both on the trampoline. Hikaru is unconscious, Komatsu glowing.

● The family is packing up, except Manami and Kyosuke, who go see the film. Kyosuke tries to tell Madoka, but can't. He's saved by Manami who powerkills the rape. Close call, though Madoka says "It would be cool if you were ESPer."



To be continued!



KOR ALIVE! OVAS

by Alain Dubreuil and
Patrick Lapointe

The OVAs are effectively 'additional episodes to the series. They bring nothing new to the KOR universe. "FIRST I'M A FISH, THEN I'M A CAT" revolves around the theme of episode 41, "Immobile Madoka! Kyosuke's Wonder Watch". In fact, "WHITE LOVERS" is but a more elaborate and sophisticated version of episode 46, "One Silver Night! Gondola for Two". HAWAIIAN SUSPENSE is unoriginal and unbelievable. Nonetheless, they introduce a new character, Akane, Kyosuke's other troublesome cousin, who is infatuated with Madoka and does something about it! Two focus on music and the characters, mostly Madoka, but little else. Finally, MESSAGE IN ROUGE has some effect. It's a good, new situation, with NO POWER! It is in the same tone as the movie.

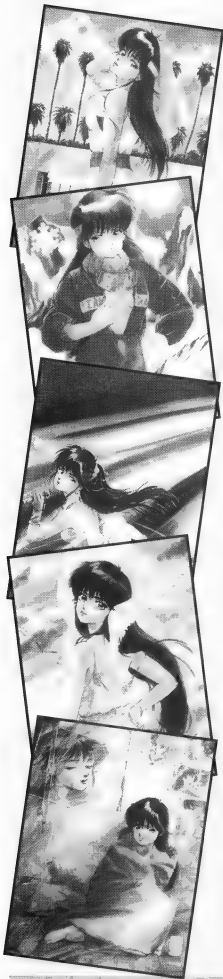
Ranking the quality of the OVAs, they would fall in the following categories: excellent, good, average, magnetic rape. From the worst up,

HAWAIIAN SUSPENSE simply does not work or do justice to the series. There is a

certain level of disbelief, of atmosphere maintained throughout the series and this OVA does not even come close. It adds little value except from it being magnetic rape... Both Akane's episodes along with the music stars' pair are interesting but not eye-popping. Akane just doesn't have the opportunity to develop the same strong appeal that other characters have gained after several episodes. Powered plot twists do not have the same interest they did at the beginning of the series.

We might say that those would look





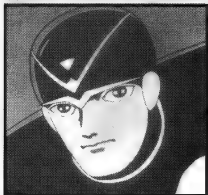
• better if we did not have 48 episodes imprinted in our brains. As for
• the music episodes, they do put some fuel in the KOR addiction
• machine but Hayakama suffers from the same problem that Akane
• does, without the power. All those episodes would rank in the
• average category for us.

• We would rate the first OVA, where Kyosuke becomes fish then cat,
• in the good slot. The story is funny and has a good pace. It is good
• entertainment. As for "WHITE LOVERS", even if it is framed upon a
• previous episode, it still is one of the best legend-based show. The
• plot revolving around qualities like faithfulness, honor, generosity
• and forgetting oneself for the sake of a loved one. It is intense and
• catches your attention easily. Another good episode. Finally, "MES-
• SAGE IN ROUGE" just brings all the other episodes down in compar-
• son. In this one, we have a new situation: Madoka is deeply hurt by
• her father's apparent infidelity to her mother. We rarely see a
• Madoka so vulnerable. She seeks the help of Kyosuke. It is growing
• up and settling feelings time for both. An excellent show, based on
• character development, the strongest facet of KOR.

• The impact of those OVAs must be analyzed in North American
• terms. For the Japanese, it is probably just an extension of what the
• movie put to an end, with the resolution of the love triangle. For
• American fans, it is the first glance at what KOR can bring them in
• terms of pleasure. The Animeigo subtitles must reach more people
• than the original Japanese (so few fans are fluent in Japanese)
• episodes or the fan subtitled versions

• (Vancouver club and other
• private initiatives only
• reach a limited
• audience
• even if we
• do thank
• them for
• such brain
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• do think
• that the
• market is
• ready for the
• episodes. Eve-
• ryone, from the
• long time fan (P-chan in
• San Diego and others) to
• those who did get along the
• japanimation trend when it
• began to generate good
• quality subtitles and
• dubbings, will be
• happy to look at fully
• subtitled episodes
• whenever they
• come. ☺





THE 8TH MAN

by Patricia A. Munson-Siter

Recently, several companies have started releasing commercial copies of episodes of the old 8th Man series. This is one of the old black and white Japanese anime TV shows that was dubbed into English in the 1960's, and has seldom been seen since. The premise of the show was simple: a young policeman is fatally wounded in the line of duty, and a scientist transfers his memories into the electronic brain of a fantastic robot. The robot with the human mind then becomes a super-hero who saves the world from all sorts of menaces...yes, you could describe him as an early version of ROBOCOP!

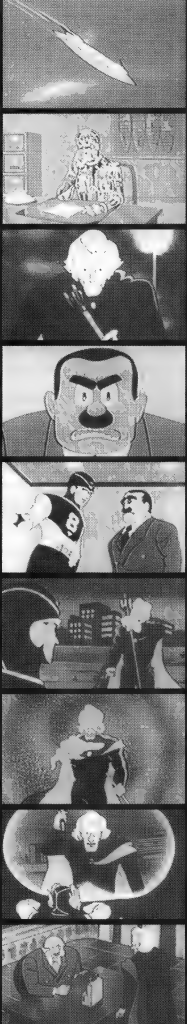
MAIN CHARACTERS:

Detective Tobor: Special Agent Brady of the Metropolitan International Crime Prevention Unit dies in the line of duty and is turned into the robot, 8th Man. As his original body has been officially declared dead, he must assume a new identity - that of Private Investigator Tobor. Tobor can shape-shift into almost any human shape. The robot has many powers that make him a superhuman crime fighter. His speed, combined with antigravity, enable him to fly short distances; and his strength is much greater than a normal human's. His eyes can see into the infrared and other bands. His major weakness is that using his powers uses up energy more quickly than his miniature atomic power plant can recharge. Because he was once human, he is sometimes tormented by human emotions. It must be mentioned that Tobor now sees his robotic side as his 'real self' and the Tobor persona as a cover. Only two people know that Tobor is 8th Man - his 'creator', Professor Genius, and the Chief of Police, Chief Fumblethumbs. Do I really need to point out that "Tobor" is "Robot" spelled backwards?

Police Chief Fumblethumbs: A round, comical looking man who fosters the impression that he is a 'stereotypical stupid policeman' to ensure he will be underestimated. He is far more intelligent than he lets on.

Professor Genius: A refugee from the tyrannical "Republic of Aramco", the professor had been involved in creating robotic warriors for his former masters - and stole the prototype he had been working on when he escaped. It is this prototype that he imprints with Agent Brady's mind. Genius left a family behind when he escaped, and the fact they are still in Aramco torments him at times. On several occasions 8th Man must fight robots and agents who have been sent out of the Republic to capture Professor Genius and take him back.

Jenny: Tobor's secretary, she is not-so-secretly in love with the young detective, never dreaming that he is a robot. Several times she comes close to guessing his secret, but always manages to convince herself that she's imagining things.



ANIME WORLD

Dr. Spectra: 8th Man's most implacable and obstinate foe. He calls himself "someone who enjoys doing evil deeds" in one episode. He is chief scientist for Intercrime, an international ring of criminals who give both 8th Man and Chief Fumblethumbs constant headaches. He is constantly inventing weapons to defeat 8th Man and enable Intercrime to control the world.

8th MAN IN "THE ARMORED MAN"

Released by Star Classics, Inc. #C3375, 30 minutes, \$7.95 US

This is the first commercial 8th Man tape I found. The packaging is cheap - it's in a no-bottom cardboard sleeve, as to be expected of the no-frills lower end of the commercial tape mill. There is a fair amount of scratches and 'dust' evident in the video image, so I suspect the company made their copy from one of the 8mm copies that have been running around for years. The sound quality is flat and blurred in a few places, occasionally making it difficult to understand the dialog.

This particular episode has 8th Man fighting "the Armored Man", an Army sergeant who has been transformed into a robot. Originally designed for use in space, they have turned Sgt. Murgatroyd into a war machine instead. Sgt. Murgatroyd has decided he doesn't like the transformation at all. Eventually 8th Man convinces the brass to return Murgatroyd to human form.

THE GREATEST ADVENTURES OF 8TH MAN, volumes 1 - 3

Released by Video Rarities, 110 minutes each, \$30.00 to \$34.00 US

These tapes are available through several sources, from the local video store to comic book shops. I have ordered mine through the local comic shop. You may have to special order them. A fourth volume is planned but it hasn't come out at the time I'm writing this article.

Video Rarities has used a bit more expensive packaging than Star Classics did. They used a sealable plastic case rather than a cardboard sleeve.

The video quality is much better, too; no signs of scratches or dust as the tape 'rolls'. The sound quality is clearer than the Star Classic video, too.

Volume 1 has the following episodes:

DR SPECTRA - introduces the man who will become one of 8th Man's worst enemies throughout the series, as well as the "mini-missiles" that are the evil doctor's trademark weapon. 8th Man foils an attempt by Spectra to take over a TV station; this was only a means to get 8th Man to show himself. Spectra's real intention is to capture 8th Man. He wants to take the robot apart so he can build an army of 8th Man clones for Intercrime. Spectra then becomes convinced that Tobor's secretary, Jenny, is really 8th Man in disguise.

EVIL JAW AND THE DEVIL GERMS - A notorious gang of spies and saboteurs known as the Black Butterfly Gang steal a vial of dangerous germs - they actually eat metal! The gang leader, Evil Jaw, plans to sell the vial to a despotic country. 8th Man finds them, but his metal skin is vulnerable to the appetite of the metal-eating 'germs from space'. He must find a way to protect himself from the unEarthly substance.

BARON STORMY - It is a calm clear day - suddenly a massive storm breaks out. Further disruptions occur in the weather patterns, and then the Chief gets a blackmail letter from Baron Stormy - a madman who has stolen a weather-control machine and intends to force people to pay him not to send terrible hurricanes, tornadoes, and storms against their cities. It will be 8th Man's job to locate Stormy and stop his evil plans.

ATTACK OF THE HORRIBLE HONEY BEES - A series of attacks on planes, highways, and buildings from huge bees begin. 8th Man manages to defeat one swarm - but the queen is missing! More bees continue to show up to menace the world. 8th Man must track the queen bee down and destroy her before she lays more queens, and the terrible, huge mutant honey bees take over the world.

POUNCE THE ROBOT TIGER - Dr. Spectra has developed a new robot he hopes will defeat 8th Man. Meanwhile, 8th Man is experiencing terrible weakness - his atomic power plant is running out of fuel. Professor Genius has no more fuel to renew the plant, and Fumblethumbs says his police department budget can't afford it either. "Intercrime has a supply," Genius remarks. 8th Man must find a way to Intercrime Island - and when he does, he finds Dr Spectra's new robot, a huge tiger, guarding his enemy - and the supply of atomic fuel!

ANIME STORIES

Volume 2 has the following episodes:

THE BATTLE OF THE BROTHERS - Dr. Geniuis' son Ken shows up, intent on taking his father back to the Republic of Aramco. He displays almost the same powers. 8th Man has. Ken has had himself turned into a robot in order to track his father down and take revenge for Geniuis' "treason" against their home country. However, the scientists remaining in the robot project could not duplicate the electronic brain Geniuis made for 8th Man; Ken's original, flesh-and-blood brain is carried within the head of the robot body. Now 8th Man has a hard choice - Geniuis does not want to be forced to return to Aramco, but on the other hand, 8th Man may have to kill Geniuis' son to save his creator. Either way, Professor Geniuis will face heartbreak and hardship...

THE MONSTEROUS EELER - A huge monster strikes against various power stations. It is a mutated electric eel, who is growing larger and more powerful with each burst of electrical power it absorbs. How can 8th Man fight a being that absorbs his most powerful blasts?

THE ATOMIC GHOST - The Black Butterfly Gang strikes again, this time turning one of its members into an "atomic ghost" who can walk through walls as well as turn himself invisible. He meets 8th Man, and the two find their abilities cancel each other out - neither can hurt the other. The Ghost is involved in more sabotage attempts, and it is up to 8th Man to figure out how to stop him and the plans of the Black Butterfly Gang.

THE GOLD BEETLE OF THE ORIENTIA - Someone is stealing vast quantities of gold from various banks in a country Fumblethumbs and Tobor are visiting. Tobor decides to try and track down the criminal, and discovers that someone is using small, insect-shaped robots to do his dirty work. 8th Man must discover who the master of the robots is, and defeat the robots who defend him.

THE RETURN OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE - Two enemy countries are meeting in Metropolis to conduct peace talks. (One of the countries involved is the Republic of Aramco, home of Professor Geniuis) The diplomats are attacked by someone claiming to be Napoleon Bonaparte. Then the daughter of one of the diplomats is kidnapped. 8th Man must find her and discover who the real villain is before the peace talks are permanently disrupted.

Volume 3 has the following episodes:

TARGET 8TH MAN - The Black Butterfly Gang strikes yet again, attacking 8th Man with one of their men dressed in a powerful suit - something of a prototype to the hard suits worn by the Knight Sabres. He can also turn invisible, and is armed with a proton gun that can badly damage 8th Man if he's hit full on by its' charge. The man kidnaps Chief Fumblethumbs to lure 8th Man into the trap he's set up.

● **THE PASSENGER ROCKET ADVENTURE** - Someone is trying to sabotage the passenger rocket a multi-millionaire is developing at a near-by factory. The millionaire hires Tobor to try and discover who the saboteur is. But there is layer upon layer of deception, as the master mind has hypnotized the rocket's pilot into destroying the invention. Can 8th Man save the rocket, its' innocent, hypnotized pilot, and also capture the mastermind behind the sabotage?

● **THE THREAT OF DISASTER** - Tobor is hired to protect a small box - but it turns out that the police are after both man and box. The man is Dorian, who is highly skilled in disguising himself. He has stolen the plans to a neutron bomb and plans to sell them to an enemy government. Then he kidnaps and hypnotizes Tobor's secretary Jenny to prevent 8th Man from stopping his plans.

● **THE BELLIGERENT BODYGUARD** - A foreign dignitary has arrived, and has been threatened by assassins. Fumblethumbs has been given the job of protecting him. In turn, he asks 8th Man for help. The robot turns himself into a chambermaid in order to keep an eye on things. Things are not all that they seem. Will 8th Man figure out who the real enemy is in time to save the foreign leader?

● **THE FREEZING RAY** - Yet another madman plans to use a diabolical weapon to force the world to obey his command. This time it's "Mr Blizzard", who has a freezing ray that can chill almost anything into iccubes. 8th Man, assisted by a foreign agent, must try to stop Blizzard's scheme before he succeeds.

COMMENTS:

● As noted above, these cartoons are in black and white. The animation is very limited compared to today's anime. Many scenes consist of the characters standing absolutely still with only their mouths moving. The dubbed voices are rather stilted by current standards, and the dialog sounds very dumb in places. The names they've given the characters are even dumber! However, the plots are not bad, and the characterization is well done for such short episodes. This is one series that did its best not to fall into stereotyping, although admittedly many of the villains are so cornily evil-looking as to be laughable. An effort was made to keep continuity solid throughout the series. 8th Man was one of the better anime shows of the time period it was made in, and was based on a popular manga. If nothing else, a look at these episodes will give you a much better idea of how far the art of animation has progressed since the early 1960's.

● This admittedly was one of my favorite shows when I was much younger, and compared to some of the others I've re-watched recently, 8th Man stands up very well. I was pleased to find I had remembered the basics of quite a few plots correctly. Some episodes, such as BATTLE OF THE BROTHERS and

● POUNCE THE ROBOT TIGER especially stand out. ● BATTLE OF THE BROTHERS is my favorite; the show did quite well at building up to an emotional peak in this episode. Further, unlike more recent translations of anime, the company that dubbed and edited the original series allowed people to die, rather than giving the hokey "he's in the hospital but he'll be all right" dodge that sometimes takes place in Japanese series dubbed for airing on American television. When I was a child, I admittedly never noticed all the signs in Japanese. Or the bad attempts to make the audience think the show took place in the US! As an adult, I can see that it was probably actually Tokyo. Still, I can ignore this in favor of decent storytelling; if anything it's more unintentionally funny than irritating. I can see why so much Japanese anime now has signs in English in the background - not only are many signs in Japan actually in English as well as Japanese, but it makes it easier to eventually sell their product internationally.

● I enjoyed re-watching this old favorite. If you're the type who only wants to see the latest, up-to-date anime, or the "Babes in Battlesuits" category, then you probably won't find 8th Man of any interest. If you can look beyond the limited animation, you may find this series can actually be quite enjoyable to watch! Approach this show with an open mind and a willingness to make allowances for its age - you may be pleasantly surprised.

● It should also be noted that the Japanese have been working on new 8th MAN projects - there is a live-action movie that was recently released, and an animated OAV series in the works. As I write these words, I have been unable to view either one. ☹

Main Theme

There's a prehistoric monster,
It's come from outer space,
Created by the Martians,
To destroy the human race.

The F.B.I. is helpless,
It's 20 stories tall,
What can we do,
Who can we call?

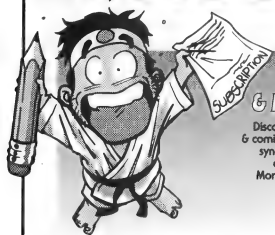
Call Tobor, the 8th Man!
Call Tobor, the 8th Man!

Faster than a rocket,
Quicker than a jet,
He's a mighty robot,
He's the one to get!

Call Tobor, the 8th Man!
Quick, call Tobor,
The mightiest robot of them all!

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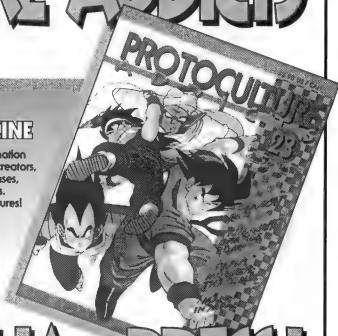
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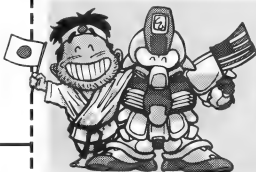
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U. S. MANGA CORPS

by Martin Ouellette

DOMINION PARTS I-II

Now, this was a good idea! Although I'm not a fanatic of DOMINION, I had heard the rumors of a dubbed version of it by U.S. Manga Corps and waited for it anxiously, knowing that this was this company's first endeavor in dubbing. And, as they always were able to do, they did a very good job albeit some little problems here and there.

Since a lot of people have seen DOMINION, I do not need to describe the Puma Sisters or the totally insane action scenes that compose this OVA. I will go right to the little problems, which are some bad voice casting, and the music. The voices are fine for many characters but one of them is quite wrong and, bad luck, it's the most important one. Leona's voice does not fit with the character. It quite simply does not reflect her gung-ho attitude. The music is another matter completely. Although it is quite good and neatly fitted, it is NOT the original soundtrack, a thing that terribly bugs me. The original music was very good, so what was the problem with it? OK, the lyrics were in Japanese but I think that people are passed the "I don't understand if I don't like it" attitude and if it was not so, I do not think that Japanese animation would have survived that long in the States. So buy this version of DOMINION but expect some changes from the original version. ***

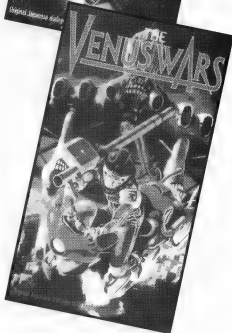
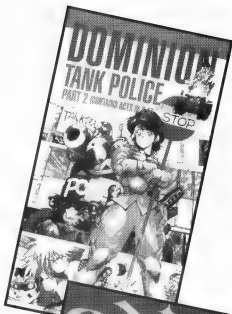
ODIN

One thing to say about this one: how wonderfully strange! ODIN should appeal to two types of anime fans: the ones who think that music is everything and the ones who revere the "SPACE CRUISER YAMATO" genre.

The story itself is rather complicated, with a mix of science-fiction and mythology that should appeal to a wide spectrum of fans. The character designs are very much like the ones created by Leiji Matsumoto for SPACE CRUISER YAMATO and the STARLIGHT's design is very reminiscent of the stuff Matsumoto would have created, giving the definitely "YAMATO" style this movie has. A lot of people might be put off by the sail ship design (I was one of them) but when the explanation for such a thing comes, it is accepted without problems, for it sounds so logic. The music of this movie is also something to be happy with. What a mix of genre. It goes from the straight out, Los Angeles style heavy-metal (Dokken particularly comes to mind) to the classical, passing by new age (Kitarō). Although rather long - 2 hours 19 minutes - it will not appear so to the viewer. I have only one problem with ODIN and it is the ending. Well you can't really call that an ending: it is more like the movie just cuts there. In fact, we never see planer Odin. But I think that it is not the ending that counts. What the director wanted was to show the long, hard road to get to the prize, not getting the prize itself! It is in that optic that ODIN is so good. The last argument is: how to resist something called "PHOTON SPACE SAILOR STARLIGHT: ODIN"? ****

VENUS WARS

At last, one of the best movies in Japanese animation is subtitled and made available to the fans. This will, without any doubt, help beginning fans to appreciate the "good stuff" and to see that AKIRA is not the only perfect movie.



VIDEO REVIEWS



The story of VENUS WARS is quite grim, showing the life of a bunch of kids who decide to resist the invasion of their country any way they can. And that is possibly one of the best traits of VENUS WARS: wherever you are, war is still war and people, possibly your friends or relatives, still get killed, may it be on Earth, Venus, Mars or planet Lollipop! Mix this atmosphere of complete despair with the incredible characters of Yoshikazu Yasuhiko (who also did characters for ZETA GUNDAM, ARION, GUNDAM F91, etc.) - even if I'm a little tired of seeing the same principal character - and mecha designs so realistically weird it's unnerving, giving you something out of the ordinary. The music is very good, especially the song in the dirt bike race of the beginning.

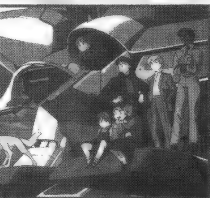
Since this movie is an adaptation of Yasuhiko's comic (published in English by Dark Horse), it is easy for fans to first go buy a couple of issues of the comic and decide if they like it or not, thus avoiding the "I bought it but I hate it" syndrome. To the beginner fan: please buy this animation, if only to see that the world of Japanese animation is not limited to AKIRA or ROBOTECH... ****

UROTSUKIDOJI VOLUME 1-11

This is rather special, to say the least. I don't know if I should like it or despise it. I personally wonder who was so sure that the field of animation needed this one to survive. It is not because it's not well done, on the contrary. The animation is superb but girls exploding during intercourse is not what I call entertaining. The first one is really the worst, with an enormous quantity of gory sex scenes and an amount of spilled blood that just goes a little too far. The second one, LEGEND OF THE DEMON WOMB, is much better, in both animation and story. OK, I'm a pig, I liked it! I really liked it! Maybe it's just the fact that it focuses on Megumi (Amano's sister) that makes it more classy. There's also the lack of over-gory stuff that endears it to me. But frankly, if people around you are scandalized because you watch that stuff, why aren't they scandalized when they rent porno movies or go see FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH or EVIL DEAD? The difference is that animation is for kids. Or so they think. If you have the guts, check UROTSUKIDOJI, you won't feel cheated. ***

THEY WERE 11

Although THEY WERE 11 is not new (1986), I was surprised by both the animation quality and the story, which, although not extremely original, keeps you at the edge of your seat for the duration. Something also retained my attention: the characters themselves. Although I was sure I had never seen them, their "style" was slightly reminiscent of something seen before. And then it suddenly hit me: these characters were from a Shōjo manga (a girls' comic). I was sure of it and I was not wrong! Originally created as a comic by female Shōjo manga artist/writer Moto Hagio, THEY WERE 11 is inspired from the Japanese folklore and Hagio herself seems to have been influenced by the work of Kenji Miyazawa (the Jules Verne of Japan), who once wrote the same basic story but with children. Personally, I just loved it. One of the best scenes is certainly the food fight, which is hysterically funny. Although the animation is of great quality, don't expect it to look like AKIRA. It was done in 1986, so... And the music is not exceptional either. But if you really want to have fun, with something simple yet thoughtful then THEY WERE 11 is just for you. And after you watch it, don't tell your friends who the eleventh one is, OK! *****



MOBILE SUIT V GUNDAM TV SERIES

by Martin Ouellette

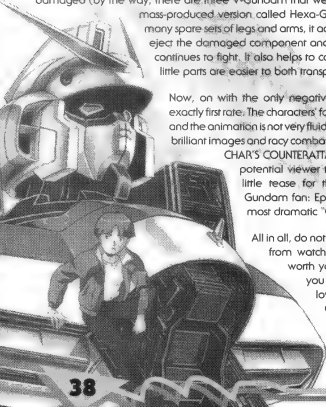
Overview

As production team of an anime-oriented magazine, we often have the chance to see new animations earlier than most fans. Sometimes it's a bad thing, sometimes it's a good thing. V-GUNDAM is definitely one of the latter! As with many new animations, our first contact with it was a 2 or 3 minute clip taken from one of the first episodes. Needless to say, judging from that clip, V-GUNDAM was going to be a stinker of major proportions. How wrong we were! We have now seen the first fifteen episodes of the series and one thing is certain: this series has the potential to be as good as ZETA GUNDAM and already eclipses ZZ GUNDAM without any problem.

There are many reasons that make it so. First, the story is quite good. Second, the characters are very likable (young viewers probably find it very easy to identify with Usso, the Gundam pilot) and you actually care about what happens to them. And third, we get to see the Gundam! In ZZ GUNDAM, the pace of the story was so sloooooow, and although the series was called ZZ GUNDAM, we did not get to see the namesake Gundam (the MSZ-010 ZZ Gundam) until after Episode 16! And the story, well... Another good point of V-GUNDAM is the mecha design. OK, at first, we were strongly disgusted by them. A mobile suit that switches into a helicopter with beam blades, oh come on! The utility of the Gundam separating into three parts was also lost on us. But as the series went on, the helicopter design grew on us and, with the introduction of the Tomliatto, it became downright cool. The utility of the three parts of the Gundam also became evident, as the machine is very often damaged (by the way, there are three V-Gundam that we know of and there will be a mass-produced version called Hexo-Gundam) and since there are many spare sets of legs and arms, it actually permits the machine to eject the damaged component and receive a replacement as it continues to fight. It also helps to camouflage it better, for three little parts are easier to both transport and hide from enemy.

Now, on with the only negative side: the animation is not exactly first rate. The characters' face have no shadows on them and the animation is not very fluid. But this is offset by sometimes brilliant images and racy combat scenes that would not shame CHAR'S COUNTERATTACK, so it should not stop the potential viewer to watch this series. And one little reason for the already knowledgeable Gundam fan: Episode 14 contains one of the most dramatic "Gundam death" of all.

All in all, do not let the early rumors keep you from watching this series. It is definitely worth your attention and, with time, you will probably learn to both love it and respect it as we do. V-GUNDAM is the ultimate proof that a TV series can be as good as an O.V.A.



Story

Before we get to the "story so far", it would be a good idea to correct some little errors that have been circulating. At the beginning, the story happens on Earth, in Northern Europe to be precise (Germany) and not on a Side. The Zansugaaru have not conquered the earth and it does not seem to be their objective. Their real name is also a mystery but it seems to be something like "Zanscoor!" (that's the way it's pronounced). There are three V-Gundam class machines and three rather similar mobile suit designs: the reconfigurable, tri-components V-Gundam, the Hexa-Gundam, which is the same as the V-Gundam but is mass-produced (it can be seen in the end titles) and the LM 111 E02 GUN EZ, which is a non-reconfigurable, low budget version of the V-Gundam (it is light gray-green with a dark blue-gray trim). And lastly, the Riga Militia is not from Side 6, as the name Riga had many people believe. Riga Militia should have been translated as Ligua Militia or Ligue Militaire (military league) as it has been seen written on the V-Gundam's head. Some people were also sure that the purple-haired woman with the horse whip was Queen Ammoniasu. It is now sure that she is not. From translations, her name is Fara Gurifon (this is a very rough translation) and the events of the last episodes we saw prove beyond a shadow of doubt that she can not conceivably be Queen Ammoniasu.

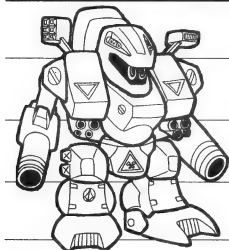
Here is a glimpse of the story so far. Usso Evin and his gang of orphan friends have linked up with the Ligua Militia to flee the combats. Usso has been chosen as alternative Gundam pilot to replace Mabetto who has been wounded in a previous engagement. The fact that he knows how to pilot a mobile suit is very well explained (there is a kind of "BattleTech Center" near where he lived) and is stealing a MS from Chronixle Asha - one of the Zansugaaru's aces - and using quite efficiently in combat certainly helped him in that matter.

The goal of the Ligua Militia is triple: to link up with another team of the Militia, to rally Gibraltar and to get to space via the mass driver in Gibraltar. The two teams link up and the two Gundam are joined by six GUN EZ, low budget versions of the V-Gundam. Many battles are fought and three of the girls piloting the GUN EZ are killed in action. Karejina Ruth, one of Usso's best friends, is now on the Zansugaaru's side and seems to be romantically linked with Chronixle Asha. When the Militia team arrives at Gibraltar, complications arise and they are immobilized for some time. It takes a fierce battle around the base for the government to let the team get on the Mass Driver and blast to space, where the Zansugaaru are easily pushing the Federation fleet back.

It seems that a good part of the rest of the story will be happening in space. More episodes! Please, more, more...



VOICE OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTER



Dear PA,

Hi, my name is Philippe Papirakis and I'm 17 years old. I would like to start this letter by telling you what a great and helpful mag PA is. I only have two numbers of PA though, #16 and 19.

I guess I was always interested by Japanese art, but I didn't really know what an industry it really was. In my mind, Japanimation was CAPTAIN HARLOCK (the 1980 French TV series), CAPITAINE FLAMME (another old series I saw in French when I was a kid), LES MYSTERIEUSES CITÉS D'OR (also in French), the usual toons from Japan you see on TV and, of course, the 1985 TV series of ROBOTECH.

Anyway, in March 1992, I started collecting Marvel comic books. One day, as I was doing my usual comic book shopping, I spotted a copy of a comic book called SILENT MOBIUS. I would have bought it, but I really had spent all my dough. The next week I came back for it but it was gone...bummer... I didn't see another Japanese comic book until September: MACROSS II. This time, I did have money and did buy it. Sometime after that, I bought LUM number 1 to 7. Around the month of November, a friend and I were looking for gaming miniatures when he then called to me: "Hey Phil, come and see this!" It was a copy of PROTOCOL CULTURE ADDICTS #16. That was the first time I ever heard of an anime and manga magazine.

Thanks to your mag (and Vrilithai), I learned much about manga and anime. I also learned of OVAs. I never imagined there were so many titles. At first, I wanted to get myself ROBOTECH tapes (I have the Palladium RPG and was really into it), but then I saw the DOMINION TANK POLICE ad and decided that maybe I should try something else. But at the time, I wasn't really wild about the fact of buying 4 tapes in Japanese with subtitles at 34.95\$ each. So I just stuck with collecting mangas.

After reading PA #16, I couldn't go on buying American comic books; I wanted to invest as much money

as I could get in comics from Japan. So I cancelled my Marvel subscriptions and ordered titles that looked good to me: BATTLE ANGEL ALITA, SILENT MOBIUS parts 1, 2 & 3 and RANMA 1/2 parts 1 & 2. All this plus my subscription to MACROSS II.

Knowing what a manga fanatic I am, the owner of the comic book store where I buy my stuff came up to me one day and asked me if I ever heard of APPLESEED. A friend of mine once told me something about it and I read about it somewhere, but didn't know much about it. He then showed me the APPLESEED collection books 1 & 2. I bought them of course. I was really impressed; it was by far the best comic book scenario I ever got the chance to read and the art was very good too. It was then that I discovered Masamune Shirow.

Some two weeks after that APPLESEED book 3: THE SCALES OF PROMETHEUS arrived. I bought it also. The art was incredible! On the same day, the owner of the store gave me a copy of UP N' COMING magazine of March. I spotted APPLESEED #4 from Dark Horse and (there it was again!) US Manga Corps' DOMINION TANK POLICE dubbed in English! "Based on the popular manga by Masamune Shirow".



Imagine, I didn't even know that DOMINION was from Mr. Shirow... I then decided to order both parts of DOMINION in English.

I then searched for information on Masamune Shirow. It was written on the back of APPLESEED book 1: THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE that he published his first work (BLACK MAGIC) at age 21. Now, where did I hear about something called: BLACK MAGIC? I searched every mag I have. Aha! BLACK MAGIC M-66, in the "Anime in USA" section of PA #16! In my search, I stumbled on page 5, the "Credits/Copyrights" section. There! "BLACK MAGIC M-66 © 1987-91 Masamune Shirow..."

By now, you must have realized that Masamune Shirow is, well, sort of an idol for me. And so, I have this favor to ask you good people of PA: Is it possible to get a complete list of Masamune Shirow's work? If you can't provide me with one, where could I get one?

Thank you,

**Philippe Papirakis
Cap-de-la-Madeleine, QC**

P.S. I would like to hear from anyone out there who is a big Shirow fan as I am (or who could give me some information on his work). My address is: 5, des Ormeaux, #8, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, QC, Canada, G8W 1R5.

The main Shirow works are: Appleseed, Black Magic, Dominion, Orion and Ghost in the Shell.

Dear PA:

I would first like to express my appreciation for your magazine. I think it's great, keep up the good work. I enjoy your SD Vritech in every issue, but hey, let's not ignore the Destroids. After all, how many times can you distort a VF?

I agree with Douglas Orlowski, you should run few more articles directed at women. All of my female friends have either rejected anime completely as something for 20 year old perverts, or are Techies to rival even me. One even built a '38-light in battloid mode for halloween last year.

Right on Jill Chamberlin! Jokes on minority groups are OK if they are in good taste, harmless, and understood to be that way, but sometimes they can go a bit far. We all need to be careful about that sort of thing, lest someone get hurt. Gays and lesbians are in most ways no different from you or me, and they have the right to be treated that way. I go to Shorewood High School, and there, at least, the rather large anime fandom has been noted for setting an example to the school in matters of prejudice and racism. I think all anime fans need to be above that, particularly in a world with so much racism, especially against the Japanese. Don't get me wrong, I'm not harping "political correctness" (gack!), I just think we should be a little more careful.

The current state of "Anime Gossip" is sad! Come up with some good ones or quit the column. On the same note, how about printing a "best of" page? I sure would like to see some from the "Official Robotech Fanzine" days. (Yes, Mr. Moscato, I DID use the "R" word).

I like the review column, but I feel I must take issue with Mr. John Moscato. He rarely likes anything, although I have to agree with him on what he does like. However, 90 percent of the time, his reviews are scathing (much like this letter)! He has ripped up one side and down the other almost every film, OAV or TV show I have ever liked. He has repeatedly raked ROBOTECH through the coals. If he hates it so much, why the hell does he work for **PROTOCOL CULTURE ADDICTS**? Why doesn't he work for AnimeCheese or something? The story of ROBOTECH is at least 4.8 million times better than that of the three original series put together. Also, there can't be more than 10 people in North America that are fans of MACROSS who didn't find it through ROBOTECH. Probably



even less than that like it better. SOUTHERN CROSS the best of the "Super Dimensionals"? Where is his head? SOUTHERN CROSS had the weakest story of them all, it's no wonder it got cut short. I bet he's so ass-backward he even liked ROBOTECH — THE RETOLD (untold) STORY. As to the new ROBOTECH videos, you failed to mention ROBOTECH PERFECT, which has the original animation and script, and the fact that the new Streamline tapes are UNCUT, unlike the FHE tapes. So, Mr. Moscato, I leave you with one parting word: Robotech, ROBOTECH, Macross, Robotech Masters, Invid Invasion, ROBOTECH.

One column I would like to see add, if only as a one time thing, is a listing of the major anime retailers in the US and Canada and how to reach them. Also, keep the fan art section if at all possible. I've missed it in the last couple issues.

Lastly, I would like to bring to your attention Mr. John Gray, drafting teacher at Shorewood. Hanging up around the room are plates of VF veritechs, an Alpha, a Cyclone (Valkyries, Legios, and Mospeada for you, scum), and some kind of Mobile Suit. We even watch ROBOTECH in class some fridays. Mr. Gray, I salute you.

In closing, PA keeps on improving, so keep up the good work. Focusing on some "soft" anime would be great, but don't forget your roots, to paraphrase Admiral McKeever, and don't forget the classics. SPACE CRUISER YAMATO lives on...

Sincerely,

David Andrew Buck
Seattle, WA

P.S. John, Guido and his buddies know where you live.

P.P.S. My plate of the SDF-1 Cruiser Mode B now is up in the room as well!

We can't do any "best of" from our ROBOTECH period since we don't have the license anymore. I know at least ten people who didn't discover MACROSS from ROBOTECH. There are probably a lot more. I mentioned ROBOTECH PERFECT in the review and that's why John didn't feel it necessary to talk about it (beside, I don't think that we had received it when John wrote his review). Let people (and John) like and dislike what they want. All taste are in the nature. Some people are more difficult to satisfy that's all. And I like to have a variety of opinions in the reviews. "Anime Gossip" has already been cut, but may come back with some improvements. We'll see. For the anime retailers list, check in the next issue. We ARE preparing something on YAMATO... Mr. Grey seems to be a cool teacher. I wish I had one like him...

Dear PA:

I just recently pertained your issue 18 — July and Aug. of 1992. Yes, it is a late issue, but I buy only once in a while; this was the most current one on the shelf so the merchants to blame. I enjoy the new format, but there is one thing I did not like at all. This is the reason I write. You print an article espousing the products of Streamline Pictures, but never print an address anywhere in the issue for readers to write them. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

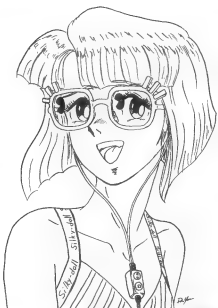
Greg Smith
Windsor, ON

It is not the merchants to blame since it is a recent issue. I know we were late but that is history. We have now caught up with most of our production delays. How do you like THIS new format? I hope



it will be enough to have you subscribe now. We did not place Streamline's address because: 1) there was no space for it (oops!) and 2) most of the video producers do not make direct sales. You should rather look for those tapes through your local comic retailer. Anyway, here is the address of all major anime video releasers in USA: STREAMLINE PICTURES, P.O. Box 691418, West Hollywood, CA 90069; ANIMEIGO, P.O. Box 989, Wilmington, NC 28402-989; U.S. MANGA CORPS, 250 West 57th Street, Suite 831, New York, NY 10107; U.S. RENITIONS, 1123 Dominguez Street, Suite K, Carson, CA 90746; A.D. VISION, 2709 Chimney Rock, Houston, TX 77056.

CJP



AD POLICE



THE ANIME EXPLOSION CONTINUES

SUMMER RELEASES 1993

AD POLICE FILES

VHS Tape release 8/15/93. Cat#AT093-0 05.

SRP \$34.95. Time approx 40 mins.

Explore the dark side of MegaTokyo in the first installment of the **AD POLICE FILES**. The Knight Sabers have yet to appear on the scene, and society is only just beginning to comprehend the promise and peril of GENOM's Boomer android technology. In **FILE 1: PHANTOM WOMAN**, Rookie AD Police officer Leon McNichol and his partner Geena investigate a series of Boomer rampages, and soon discover that they are the work of a defective Boomer who is illegally reactivating scrapped Boomers — one of whom carries within her the memory of the man who destroyed her; Leon McNichol.

The **AD POLICE FILES** contain violence, nudity and adult situations; viewer discretion is advised.

URUSEI YATSURA TV VOL. 9 (EPISODES 31-34)

VHS Tape release 8/15/93. Cat#AT092-109.

SRP \$39.95. Time approx 100 mins.

Urusei Yatsura fever continues with our 9th compilation of TV episode madness, containing the usual four installments of insanity. Ataru wreaks his revenge when Ten's horn falls out, rendering him powerless, while Ran, who finds the

missing horn, is up to something rotten; a trip to the library results in grave danger to the world of books; Lum decides to attend school, and this combined with a new teacher spells disaster; and a lonely goblin vacates his home at the bottom of a deep pool and causes chaos.



KIMAGURE ORANGE ROAD LD#2 (OVAS 5-8)

Laserdisc release 8/25/93. Cat#AD093-002. SRP \$84.95. Time approx 100 mins.

Our collector's LD release of **KIMAGURE ORANGE ROAD** continues this month with the second OVA LD, which includes **SPRING IS FOR IDOLS, BIRTH OF A STAR, AN UNEXPECTED SITUATION**, and **MESSAGE IN ROUGE**.

As with all our LD releases, **KOR LD #2** has been resubtitled especially for LD, and comes complete with lots of chapter marks, extra goodies on the disc, and extensive liner notes.

Also available on VHS tape. Cat # AT092-008, AT092-009. \$39.95 each.

Altogether, *Urusei Yatsura* consists of 196 half-hour TV Series episodes, 11 OVAs (Original Video Animations — short animated films released direct to video), and 6 animated Motion Pictures. Targeted at a young adult (14-30) audience, *Urusei Yatsura* (loosely translated: "Those Obnoxious Aliens") is the classic Japanese animated comedy. Created by one of Japan's most popular

comic-book artists, **Takahashi Rumiko**, *Urusei Yatsura* is a slapstick risqué comedy where anything can happen — and does!

Warning: due to high comedy content, the *Comedian General* strongly suggests that you do not eat or drink while watching *Urusei Yatsura*.



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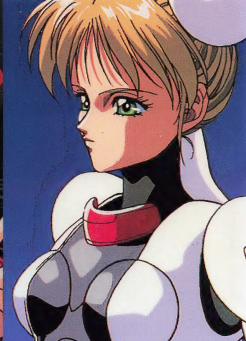
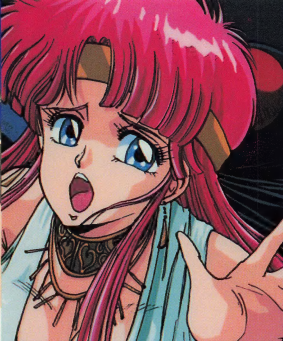
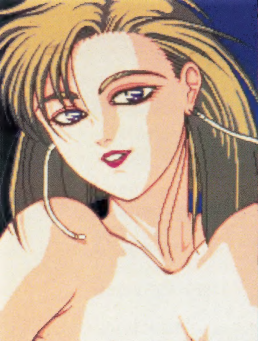
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